

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Overland Trade Report.

VOL. LIX.]

HONGKONG, MONDAY, 25TH JANUARY, 1904.

No. 4

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Epitome	53
Leading Articles:—	
The Northern Crisis	54
Hongkong and the Fiscal Question	54
The New Hongkong Water-works Scheme	55
Chinese Infantile Mortality in Hongkong	56
Chinese in the Hongkong Police Force	56
The P. & O. S. N. Co.	56
Hongkong Jottings	57
Hongkong Legislative Council	57
The Fiscal Plebiscite in Hongkong	59
Japan and Russia	59
British Activity in the Far East	60
Increase of the Hongkong Police Force	60
Registration of Domestic Servants	61
Church Missionary Association	61
Hongkong Volunteer Concert	61
Hongkong Journalists' Association	61
New Territory Notes	62
Canton	62
Pakhoi	62
Correspondence	63
China Provident Loan and Mortgage Co., Ltd.	65
Kowloon Land and Building Co., Ltd.	66
Hongkong Land Investment and Agency Co., Ltd.	66
West Point Building Co., Ltd.	66
National Bank of China, Ltd.	67
Supreme Court	67
Sporting Notes	69
Cricket	70
Football	70
Royal Hongkong Yacht Club	71
Hongkong Races	72
Hongkong	72
Miscellaneous	73
Commercial	74
Shipping	76

BIRTHS.

On the 22nd January, at the Hongkong Hotel, the wife of J. HOOPER, of a son.

On the 31st December, 1903, at Tientsin, the wife of Sub-Conductor J. M. O. SWENTY, Indian Ordnance Department, of a daughter.

On the 6th January, at Tokyo, the wife of C. S. GRIFFIN, of a daughter.

At his residence, Peking, the wife of F. H. CORNELL, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

On the 4th January, 1904, at H.B.M. Consulate, Ningpo, before R. H. Mortimore, and afterwards by the Rev. J. W. Heywood, ARTHUR JOHN PHILBERT, to ELIZABETH ANN ONNERBERG, both of Ningpo.

On the 20th January, at Peak Church, Hongkong, by the Rev. F. T. Johnson, M.A., MARY GERTRAUDE, youngest daughter of T. L. CROWN, Ripon, Yorks, to THOMAS, eldest son of RICHARD HORNEY, Aston Park, Northwich, Cheshire.

At St. John's Cathedral, by the Rev. F. T. Johnson, M.A., RUBY, only daughter of the late CHUN LAY KUM, of Australia and the Straits Settlements, and JAMES ARCHIBALD PEACH, Imperial Maritime Customs, only son of the late JAMES PEACH, Stretton Lodge, Brisbane.

DEATHS.

On the 14th January, 1904, at the General Hospital, Shanghai, Captain R. F. ANDERSON, late manager of Arnhold, Karberg & Co.'s Oil Wharf, Pootung.

On the 15th January, 1904, at Pallonjee House, Canton, BEX, the only and dearly beloved child of REGINALD and EDITH THOMAS, aged 1 year and 16 days.

On the 18th January, after a short illness, ANGELINE FLORENCE, beloved wife of R. H. STEPHENSON, of the Taikoo Sugar Refinery Co., Ltd.

At his residence, 4, Haskell Road, Shanghai, on the 12th inst. SEIGISMUNDO J. RANGEL, aged 51 years.

Hongkong Weekly Press

HONGKONG OFFICE: 14, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVAL OF MAIL.

The German Mail of the 22nd December, arrived per s.s. *Gera* on the 23rd inst.; and the French Mail of the 25th December, is expected to arrive per s.s. *Yarra* sometime to-morrow.

EPITOME OF THE WEEK

Mr. W. B. Townley, First Secretary of the Legation at Peking, has been transferred to Constantinople.

At a New Year's reception in St. Petersburg the Tsar said: "I desire and intend to do all in my power to maintain peace in the Far East."

Japanese and Russian agents are buying up all available coal throughout the world. The buying operations have hitherto been chiefly centred in Cardiff.

The summer schedule of the Russian railways shows a *train de luxe* on the Siberian railway, which will make the distance from Alexandrovo to Daluy in thirteen days.

Enquiry shows that there is little if any ground for the persistent rumours of serious disturbances in Canton. Beyond the usual street rows nothing alarming has occurred.

President Roosevelt has appointed Mr. Davidson, now Consul at Tamui, to act as roving U. S. Commercial Agent with headquarters at Antung, and Mr. E. V. Morgan, Consul at Daluy.

According to the *Japan Times*, the American Asiatic Association has sent a telegram to the following effect to the Yokohama Association: Japan is fighting a battle for civilization. The Americans completely sympathise with Japan. Japan has nothing to fear.

The *Japan Mail* says that it is reported that the personnel of the Military Council recently instituted by Imperial Ordinance will be as follows:—Field-Marshal Marquis Yamagata, Field-Marshal Marquis Oyama, Admiral Yamamoto, Minister of the Navy, Lieut.-General Terauchi, Minister of War, Admiral Viscount Ito, Admiral Count Kabayama, Admiral Baron Inouye, General Count Nozu, General Baron Kuroki, General Baron Oku, Lieut.-General Baron Kodama, Rear-Admiral Ijima.

A Tientsin despatch quoted by the *N.-C. Daily News* states that following the example of the Ministers of Foreign Powers at Seoul the Chinese Minister, Hsu Tai-shen, also asked for a legation guard, consisting of a battalion of troops, from Viceroy Yuan Shikai with the request that the latter would help him to recommend the matter to the Throne. Viceroy Yuan Shikai, however, did not seem to think a guard necessary for the Chinese legation at Seoul, and so has refused to send the troops asked for.

The Tokyo correspondent of the *N.-C. Daily News* telegraphed on the 16th inst. that "Russia has communicated to the Powers, including Japan, her view of the respective treaty right of the two countries in Manchuria." He also states:—"Sixty-four American marines with three officers arrived at Seoul yesterday. The American guard now numbers one hundred. A French detachment is expected to follow."

The latest news which was reached us of the Japanese and Russian warships hurrying out here is contained in the following telegram dated London, 21st January. The Russian transport *Orel* has left Suez. The Japanese cruiser *Kasuga* has arrived at Aden and leaves for Colombo at once. The Russian cruisers *Dmitri Donskoi* and *Aurora* with twelve destroyers have sailed from Suez. One destroyer is disabled. The battleship *Oslabya* and the transport *Saratoff* will be docked at Suez.

The Tsar, speaking to the United States Minister at the New Year's reception renewed the assurances already sent to Washington that Russia would not hinder American interests in Manchuria. An official *communiqué* at Washington says that the establishment of foreign consulates at Moukden, Antung and Tatungku will powerfully contribute towards ensuring the open door, to which America is irrevocably committed, and also towards the integrity of China and its administrative control of Manchuria.

We hear that the Toyo Kisen Kaisha s.s. *Rohilla Maru*, on the Hongkong-Manila run, and advertised to leave Hongkong for Manila next Wednesday, the 27th inst., has been taken up by the Japanese Government, and her sailing fixture has been cancelled in consequence. Whether or no her sister-ship the *Rosetta Maru* will be also taken up by the Japanese Government we do not know. The *Rohilla Maru*, an old P. & O. liner, is a smart little steamer of 3,900 tons gross. She performs the trip from Hongkong to Manila in 48 hours or so, and no doubt, will make an excellent transport.

There being rumours on Wednesday to the effect that the Japanese Government had bought up practically every launch in Japan, even the *Tansan* launch at Kobe (which, it was said, had been rechristened the *Tansan-maru*), we made enquiries about the matter on board the Canadian Pacific Railway Company's s.s. *Empress of India*. What those aboard observed is of interest. To begin with, many of the launches belonging to the Mitsui Bussan Kaisha Company have been taken up, but, as far as those of the *Empress of India* know, that is all. When the liner was at Kobe, *Tansan* certainly was running as usual. The absence of Japanese warships at the ports of call was ominous. Many Japanese men-of-war, they heard, were at Sasebo, all ready for action, and awaiting events. The Army, too, was prominent by the absence of soldiers, it being understood that the men were awaiting immediate orders to embark from another part of the country where numerous coaled merchant-steamers were anchored and fitted up as troop-ships. The trans-Pacific liner *Hongkong Maru*, which has been taken up by the Japanese Government, will make an ideal transport, as also will the numerous vessels belonging to the Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

THE NORTHERN CRISIS.

(Daily Press, 18th January.)

Two more days of rumours and uncertainty have elapsed since our last issue. Some of the rumours were a little more definite in character, but when an attempt was made to trace them to their source no success could be met. On Saturday morning, in particular, it was reported widely that Japan had actually landed an army corps, or at least a large body of troops, in Corea. No confirmation of this came later in the day nor yesterday, nor could the origin of the story be discovered. Nevertheless, there being nothing improbable in the rumour, it was largely credited, especially after the news of the *Tamba Maru's* speedy return from Singapore became known. This news we were the first to publish; it will be seen that the *Hitachi Maru* and *Hakata Maru* have also been taken off the list of sailings. This of course points to nothing more than the fact that Japan is preparing to use these vessels as army transports in case of need, as there was no doubt previously she would do if necessary. But it was only natural that the knowledge of Japan's action should encourage the belief that she had already taken some definite step, even to the extent of landing troops in Corea. It was argued that the absence of authentic telegrams from Japan was easily to be explained, a strict telegraphic censorship having been established already. This is true as regards Japan, but it seems to us improbable that the news of an actual landing in Corea should not have got out another way, namely, overland by way of China or across the Gulf of Pechili. No such intimation has reached us yet. With regard to news from Europe, it is not of an illuminating nature. The Suez Canal towards the end of last week was almost blocked with warships, British, Japanese, and more still Russian. Two more Russian Volunteer Fleet vessels had passed the Bosphorus, going south with troops, probably to meet the squadron at Suez. Meanwhile the report of the Russian New Year's reception at St. Petersburg represents the Tsar as saying that he desired and intended to do all in his power to maintain peace in the Far East. As we have said before, we wish we could believe the Tsar to have the power to restrain his Ministers and put into effect his "passionate" longing for peace of which Mr. BALFOUR told us the other day. Unhappily we cannot. The Tsar is evidently used by his designing advisers as a means of reassuring and blinding Europe—or such part of Europe as is willing to be blind. A far more effective guarantee of peace in the Far East would be an explosion in the Balkans. There are rumours of such coming. For the sake of averting a greater evil (which a Far Eastern break-up would undoubtedly be), we may be permitted to hope that this explosion will occur; it is, moreover, inevitable, sooner or later. Did it come now, the calamity of a terrible war in the North, followed by most dangerous international complications, might be avoided. Of two evils, we would choose the less, had we the choice. International complications, it is true, would follow a serious outbreak in the Balkans, but not of the nature of those consequent on a Russo-Japanese war. The Powers are at least in moderate harmony over the Balkan question, and agree that the Turk must amend or go. In North China it is far otherwise. Jealousies and conflicting interests tear the various nations this way and that, making a change in the balance of power fraught with utmost danger. By all means we would like to see the peace of the Far East preserved if it be

at the cost of a precipitation of the troubles of the Near East, as it is called.

(Daily Press, 20th January.)

In its issue of the 15th instant our Shanghai contemporary, the *North-China Daily News*, says:—"A private note received 'on the 19th inst. from a well-informed source in Japan says that the chartering of transports is going on openly. Troops will not be despatched to Corea until after a naval engagement. The Kokura and Sendai Divisions will be the first to take the field. Foreign newspaper correspondents are receiving orders by wire to cable 'freely irrespective of cost.'" It is to be presumed, however, that the correspondents find little to cable about, or else that the censorship is very strict indeed; for no news of a trustworthy nature reaches us even *via* Europe. With regard to the despatch of troops to Corea, in spite of the authority quoted by the *Daily News*, we learn from a traveller only just arrived in the Colony from the Korean coast that Japan undoubtedly has been landing small bodies of men in Corea, quietly but steadily. He even went so far as to maintain that Japan has quite 25,000 men in Corea, prepared for the outbreak of war. Rumours to this effect were of course prevalent before, but the present story is much more circumstantial. As to the good faith of our informant we have no hesitation, and we therefore give his statement as worthy of consideration. We must, however, confess to being puzzled to explain how Japan's action can have failed to be revealed through Chinese reports. A thorough censorship can suppress telegrams from Japan, but not *via* China.

(Daily Press, 22nd January.)

According to REUTER's telegram published to-day, the outline of the last Japanese Note to Russia is given by the London *Times* of the 19th instant. This is announced to be "the last Japan will address to Russia," and Japan is only to wait "a reasonable time" before taking steps necessary to safeguard her interests. If the *Times* then is reliably informed in this instance, the Japanese Note, if not an ultimatum, is the nearest possible diplomatic approach to an ultimatum and leaves no loophole for further evasion on the part of Russia. We were told recently that Japan had no intention of sending an ultimatum yet, not being completely prepared; but this Note, as outlined in the *Times*, contradicts this idea and supports the other, that Japan's preparations will cease with the safe arrival in the Far East of the newly purchased cruisers *Kasuga* and *Nisshin*, which must now be approaching Colombo, a long way ahead of the Russian squadron lately in the Mediterranean. These vessels therefore are practically out of harm's way, and since a Japanese squadron was cruising last week in the neighbourhood of the Sables, as reported from Shanghai, there can be little doubt that they will soon be an integral and effective part of the Japanese Navy. The way in which their assistance has been secured will have been admirably smart work, for they were not to have been completed for the Argentine Government, their original owners, until the present week. They have still to be manned for war purposes, it is true, but the ultra-patriotic Japanese will surely have no difficulty in this respect. With this increment to their naval strength, no doubt Japan feels that there is no more to wait for, if a fight must come. Hence it is not surprising that Japan's diplomacy should take on a stronger tone and speak in unmistakable language

about the conditions of peace. The question for us to consider is whether this change conduces better to peace or to war, and the answer, it must be plain, depends on the struggle for supremacy between the peace and war parties in Russia. The supporters of war can but see in Japan's Note the direct challenge for which they have been wishing and striving. Those, on the other hand, who are in agreement with the Tsar himself and who have never been in favour of the aggressive policy in China, still less of that in Corea, might be glad to give way in a matter where they know that all the justice of the case is against Russia. But the question of national honour, so-called, complicates affairs, and furnishes the war party with a specious argument regarding the disgrace of yielding to the insistence of Japan, an Asiatic Power. Much has been made in some quarters of the influence which King EDWARD is using on behalf of peace. We must confess that we fail to see how it can well be exerted. We believe that it is being used, but cannot understand what argument can be adduced to bring over those in Russia who call for a war. Any effective pressure must be in the form of a threat, but such diplomacy can only be between Government and Government now, not between monarch and monarch. To the Tsar's love of peace it is, of course, easy to appeal, but not to Admiral ALEXIEFF's or General KUROPATKIN's. The Russian "forward" party requires a stronger argument than one of sentiment to convert it. Kingly diplomacy will not furnish this. A readiness for every contingency, a silent but perceptible preparation to look to the full after our interests, this is the only effective argument which Great Britain could put forward for the preservation of peace. So far we are still in suspense as to what the British Government thinks or proposes. And Parliament is not in session, so that no question can be asked. With a strong and provident Government this is not always a disadvantage; but can we say as much of the present Government? True, there is Sir ERNEST SATOW at Peking, a sound adviser and one not likely to err in his estimate of affairs. May he be able to make himself heard! The fate of North China, and more, is now hanging in the balance.

HONGKONG AND THE FISCAL QUESTION.

(Daily Press, 16th January.)

Hongkong is being asked to record an opinion on the fiscal changes proposed by the Right Hon. JOSEPH CHAMBERLAIN. The China Association have already responded to their committee's appeal on this question with no uncertain voice, and we have no doubt as to the result of the *plébiscite* now being taken among the other British residents. The difference between the Briton at home and the Briton abroad is great. The fact that

"Home-keeping youth have ever homely wits" was stated by the immortal SHAKESPEARE centuries ago, and despite the advantages of improved communication, the line still remains as true as when first written. Things that are obvious to the travelled Briton are not apparent, do not appeal, to the mass of the inhabitants of the United Kingdom, taken up as they are with their own parochial concerns. The little Engländer is in a majority in many districts where Imperial questions are neither thought of nor understood. But the Briton who has lived in other parts takes wider views, sees more what is best for the Empire, and is better

able to shake himself free from the trammels of local self-interest. Hence it is that the residents in Hongkong, although it is a free port, and practically much less affected than the Mother Country by fiscal changes, are able to come to a more rapid decision on the question that is now absorbing public interest in the British Isles. It is not wonderful, therefore, that they should have long since ceased to make a fetish of free-trade, should have come to recognise that free-trade exists only in the imagination of the professed disciples of CORDEN, and to be painfully cognisant of the fact that by clinging to this shadow they are in danger of losing the substance. The gradual decay and, in many cases, the total loss of many British industries is but too apparent to us here, though the people of Little Pedlington, who have been slumbering for the past half-century, may not be aware of the fact.

Nor are the British community in this Colony so callow as to be gulled with such consolations as those recently current at home; e.g.,—when the Glasgow sugar trade was destroyed by bounty-fed beet sugar from the Continent, the citizens were reminded that though sugar had gone "jam and pickles remained." Curiously enough, the same fatuous argument is now being revived *apropos* of the decay of the iron and steel trades. The cheap German iron dumped into South Wales has, it is said, caused a revival in the tin-plate industry. As the chairman of one of these works has pointed out in the *Times*, this is very poor consolation at the best, and the profits made are very slender, while the loss to the iron industry is at least ten-fold greater than the gain to the tin-plate industry. The Ebbw Vale Mill, which had been working for one hundred years and employed 750 men, was closed at the end of November last in consequence of the dumping of foreign material at a price considerably less than it can be produced in South Wales. Mr. BRAILS福德, the manager of these works, speaking at Ebbw Vale on the 3rd ult., said that the cost of production in Germany and England was practically the same. The difference in price was simply that, with a high tariff protecting their own industries, the Germans could well afford to sell their products at less than cost price. The so-called free-traders urge that if the Germans are so foolish as to sell surplus goods in England below the cost of production, consumers should thankfully accept them and consider themselves the gainers. Such short-sighted policy is almost incredible, and is perhaps really due to the exigencies of party government, which too often leads unscrupulous politicians to make use of any arguments which may seem to appeal to the selfishness of the masses. Thus, a favourite point raised by them is that fiscal reform in the direction of retaliation might cause an increase in the cost of food. It has been clearly shown that a small tax on corn would hardly be felt. But even if the cost of bread really were increased it would surely be better to have a slightly smaller loaf than no bread at all. The dread of retaliation by foreign nations if we ventured to impose a tax on certain products or to legislate against subsidies to shipping or bounties to industries to prevent unfair competition with our own vessels or manufactures is also a favourite bogey with "free-traders." They forget that Great Britain is not the attacking party. She is the attacked. Hitherto she has met all attacks "lying down"; Mr. CHAMBERLAIN proposes she should meet them "standing

up." It is not intended either by the great British statesman that we should run a tilt against the fiscal systems of the world, but that we should merely, and instead of making one-sided commercial conventions, negotiate reciprocal commercial treaties. What Mr. CHAMBERLAIN wants, and Mr. BALFOUR wants no less, is that in future, when making commercial treaties, we should have something to bargain with.

As for Hongkong. This is a free port, and we trust it will always remain so, and that our foreign friends will for ever retain the right to come as freely as they do now and trade and reside here with privileges unabridged. But we also hope that the British Government will be placed in such a position as to be able to persuade other Governments to grant to British merchants and British ships the same advantages as have been so ungrudgingly accorded to foreign merchants and foreign vessels. At present, even here in this British Colony, British shipping is, through the subsidies paid to foreign ships by their Governments, positively handicapped in what ought to be a fair competition. Thus, on the coast and on the Canton river, foreign vessels enjoying heavy subsidies compete with colonial steamers which have to depend solely on their own earnings for the profit on capital embarked. This is surely not as it should be. Neither is it just or fair that the refined sugars of Hongkong should be kept out of the markets of Indo-China and Japan by prohibitive tariffs, while British markets are open to the products of those countries. Of course our neighbours are free to do as they like; they can raise or lower their tariff wall at pleasure; but it is surely the acme of folly to shrink from an endeavour to make them see reason from dread of retaliation. "Free-traders" are obviously frightened by this word. There is nothing to be alarmed at in it, however; it only means that the British trader has at last fully aroused, and that he does not intend in future to give everything for nothing. He wants a *quid pro quo* for what he concedes, and he will get it. Foreign Governments are not so foolish or so unreasonable as to quarrel with us because we at length have come to see that our fiscal methods are antiquated, absurd, and one-sided, and they will respect us the more when we ask for reciprocity in commerce. We do not fear competition, we have invited it, and we shall not go back on our ancient policy; but we do want that competition to be on even terms. It is because such has ceased to be the case, and that Mr. CHAMBERLAIN has timely recognised the fact, that we feel bound to rally to his standard, as we hope Britons will do throughout the length and breadth of the Empire, and wish him success in the arduous task of bringing a slow-moving nation to recognise that its fiscal policy must change with changing circumstances.

THE NEW HONGKONG WATERWORKS SCHEME.

(Daily Press, 21st January.)

An important departure in the carrying out of the Tytamuk waterworks scheme has just been made public through the medium of a paper laid before the Legislative Council at its meeting on Tuesday. When after the severe drought of two years ago it was finally decided to undertake the construction of a low-level pumping reservoir at Tytamuk that would practically double the present water-supply of the island, it was felt that at last we were to be put beyond the dangers and annoyances attendant upon our

annually recurrent water-famines. It was recognised, of course, that at least two or three years must elapse before the Colony would be enabled to enjoy the blessings of an enhanced and sufficient supply, but public clamour was hushed, for the community were satisfied that the Government, after many years of deferred activity, should have at length shown that it had determined to face the situation squarely and rectify a state of matters which had been discreditable to the good name of Hongkong. Now it appears that the trial works that have been carried out show that it is questionable whether or no the site on the low level of Tytamuk Valley which appeared so admirably adapted for the construction of a dam of moderate dimensions and having a large impounding capacity will be the most favourable, and with a view to arriving at a proper conclusion it has been found advisable to carry out works of a similar kind on other sites. On two sites farther inland than that originally proposed such works have already been undertaken, and it is probable that one of these will be ultimately fixed upon from economical as well as from constructional considerations; for owing to the configuration of the country the low-level reservoir would require a tremendously deep damming-wall as compared with one at a higher altitude, and would take much longer to build. Even when the site is definitely fixed upon, no hope can be held out that the community will derive any benefit from the new reservoir till the end of 1906, at soonest.

So, with the view of curtailing this waterless hiatus, the Hon. W. CHATHAM, the Director of Public Works, brought forward a scheme that only requires to be examined to be commended. Mr. CHATHAM says, in effect, that owing to the prolonged period to be occupied in the completion of the whole scheme it is desirable that some works to meet present requirements should be undertaken at once. Accordingly he proposed to construct a dam higher up the valley on a site already suggested as an alternative site in the Tytamuk Scheme by the Hon. FRANCIS A. COOPER, Director of Public Works, in 1896. The present proposal contemplates an amplification of Mr. COOPER's plan, so that the capacity of this dam will be one hundred and ninety-four million gallons in place of one hundred millions, a quantity which the pumping engines now on order will be capable of dealing with and lifting to the Tytam level. Writing in October last, Mr. CHATHAM estimated that there was available for tiding over the dry season one hundred and eighty-five days' supply. The new reservoir will bring that figure up to two hundred and thirty-three days' supply.

Of this new dam the natural drainage area amounts to four hundred and seventy acres, of which two hundred and ten acres lie about the Tytam West catchwater supplying Tytam Reservoir, whilst the drainage of a large area situated entirely outside the present Tytam drainage area can be intercepted by catchwaters constructed along the southern slopes of the hills along the head of the valley. It will be seen therefore that the proposal can boast of numerous advantages. Mr. CHATHAM enumerates them thus:—

- (1.) The site is a very favourable one for the construction of a dam.
- (2.) It can be undertaken at once.
- (3.) It will not interfere with any existing or proposed works.
- (4.) The base of the dam being 112 feet above Ordnance Datum, it will not be overlapped by the construction of the larger dam to be undertaken hereafter and will

therefore be of permanent benefit for storing water.

(5.) Being close to the small dam in connection with the temporary pumping-plant already established, the work-people can be conveniently housed below the latter so as to avoid the risk of pollution of the supply from this source.

The small dam above referred to is one, recently constructed, with a capacity of one and a half millions and equipped with an engine capable of pumping half-a-million gallons per day to the Tytam gauge-basin. It is satisfactory to note that Mr. CHATHAM's proposal for the construction of this bigger auxiliary dam met with Sir HENRY BLAKE's strong support, and that on His Excellency's representations it has received the sanction of the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

The cost of the dam is to be paid for out of the sums voted for the Tytamuk Scheme, of which it practically forms a part. We cannot hope to reap any advantage from the new reservoir during the present dry season, but it is a consoling fact that the Water Authority leads us to expect it will be available for the purposes of public supply in the 1904-5 dry season, by which time the pumping-engines will have come out from home. Mr. CHATHAM deserves the thanks of the community for the way in which he has carried through this scheme, if, as we are led to believe, it will do much to relieve the distress that has been borne by all classes in Hongkong of recent years and has been getting to be more burdensome as time went on and the water-supply became less and less proportionately as the population became more numerous.

CHINESE INFANTILE MORTALITY IN HONGKONG.

(Daily Press, 20th January.)

A report laid on the Legislative Council table on the 19th inst. which furnishes very melancholy reading-matter is that of the committee appointed to enquire into the causes of Chinese infantile mortality in the Colony. That committee was composed of Doctors J. M. ATKINSON, Ho Kai, G. P. JORDAN, W. W. PEARSE, G. M. HARSTON, and W. HUNTER. Many meetings were held and the French and Italian Convents were inspected, as being the places where most of the infantile deaths under one month occurred. As was the case in 1886, when on the raising of the question in the Council by Mr. A. P. MACLEWEN, Mr. HUGH MACCULLUM examined the causes of infantile mortality here, the committee agrees that it is not to intrinsic defects in the two Convents that the large death-rate is due, but to the number of moribund children dumped at the Convent doors. The figures on which the committee had to work included the Acting M.O.H.'s return from July, 1902, to June, 1903, which showed a total of 1,073 infantile deaths under one year in the Colony, 495 or over 46 per cent. being due to *tetanus*, *trismus*, and convulsions; 370 of those latter were at the French Convent, which draws from a lower class of Chinese population than the Italian Convent. Altogether the French Convent admitted 1,392 infants, of whom 1,271 died, 277 from *tetanus* and *trismus*; the Italian Convent admitted 341 infants, of whom 168 died, 25 from *tetanus* and *trismus*. It was found that the number of admissions and deaths began to rise in April, and reached its maximum in August, then declining to its minimum between January and March. The causes of the mortality are stated by the report of the Committee to be:—

(1) *Trismus*, the commonest cause of deaths under two weeks of age in the Convents. The Chinese call this *so hau*, or lock-jaw, and consider it a hopeless disease. Dr. HUNTER, however, could not isolate the *tetanus* bacillus in his post-mortem examinations. (2) *Marasmus*, which Dr. HUNTER found to be responsible for over 33 per cent. in some 600 post-mortems on children under two years old. Mal-nutrition and want of cleanliness, as well as hereditary conditions, are to blame. (3) Chest-affections. (4) Diarrhoea, etc. (5) Convulsions at teething time and from worms. The Chinese use the term *kap king* to describe this class of convulsive disease. The report points out that it is an important fact that a number, possibly a third to half of the children dying within one month, have not had their births registered, Chinese children not being entered in the "family tree" until they are one month old. The high death-rate is more apparent than real, says the Committee. The M.O.H. in his 1902 report gives the infantile death-rate at 796 per 1,000, after allowing for all deaths under one month as unregistered; but owing to the very large number of births unregistered, his figures must be considered very much over the mark. And further, if our figures are compared with the infantile death-rate in Calcutta—748.6 per 1,000—they are relatively not so bad as apparent at first sight. As to preventive measures, the Committee say that the first and greatest involves the better education of the Chinese, especially the lower classes, in sanitary matters. The maternity hospital is a step in the right direction, but a free maternity charity, whereby poor people could be attended in their own houses, is wanted. A bonus of \$2 to mother, midwife, or other person present registering a birth within one month is recommended. The Convents should be required to register every admission at the Registrar-General's Office. And the foster mothers with whom children from the Convents are housed should also be registered, either at the Convent or at the R.G.O., as well as medically examined before being accepted as foster mothers. But the great remedial measure is, as the Committee begin their recommendations by saying, in the better education of the Chinese: to convince them of the necessity of proper sanitary procedure, both personal and in their households.

CHINESE IN THE HONGKONG POLICE FORCE.

(Daily Press, 22nd January.)

We note, with great regret, that a suggestion made by the Acting Captain Superintendent of Police for an addition to the Colonial Police Force of fifty Chinese constables has met with the support and concurrence of the Government. In this column, for the past thirty-five years, we have consistently, and designingly, opposed the augmentation of the Chinese contingent of the Police. When the Commission to enquire into the constitution and working of the Police Force was held upwards of thirty years ago, all the evidence of experts and those who were most competent to speak went to show that the Chinese Police were incompetent, unreliable, and corrupt. The Hon. CHARLES MAY, some time Acting Colonial Secretary, who had been successively Superintendent of Police and Police Magistrate, and who had had long experience of the *lukongs*, stated in his evidence before the Commission that if they had one half of the Police Chinese they would have one half useless. The late Dr. STEWART, Colonial Secretary in succession to Sir WILLIAM MARSH, also

gave evidence, and pronounced against their too extended employment. It is not very many years since a batch of thirty-six Chinese constables were dismissed the Force for accepting bribes from gambling-house leapers, and in spite of all protests the local Government replaced these offenders by others drawn from the same class. It is matter of notoriety that all the native *lukongs*, with perhaps a few notable exceptions, are accessible to bribes, that they are conspicuous by their absence when rows are afoot, and that they cannot be counted upon to assist to awe a Chinese mob. They are a positive source of weakness to the Police Force, and, in the event of a Chinese riot or anti-foreign demonstration, might prove a serious danger. Chinese detectives are necessary though by no means reliable, but no other Chinese, except perhaps in isolated cases, should be enlisted in the Police. The British constable is an expensive article, and his Indian brother is not without faults, but so long as sufficient material for the Force can be obtained from these sources, no Chinese should be enrolled in it. Their employment in the New Territory is especially to be deprecated, as there they can neither be depended upon to maintain order, or to inspire confidence among the population in the purity and impartiality of the administration of British justice.

THE P. & O. S. N. CO.

(Daily Press, 19th January.)

At the sixty-third annual meeting of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company on the 11th ultimo, Sir THOMAS SUTHERLAND had a pleasant task to perform, for, as he stated, though the year 1902 had been the most fortunate year in the history of the company, 1903 fell but little behind. In 1903 the revenue decreased by £111,000 and the expenditure decreased by £97,000. With regard to the year 1902 Sir THOMAS SUTHERLAND said that they could not of course anticipate such years except at the rarest intervals; but they might fairly hope, except in event of extraordinarily adverse circumstances, for the normal annual dividend which they had now paid for so many years. The point of greatest interest to the Far East in the P. & O. chairman's statement was of course about the reduction of fares to and from this part of the world, a fact which we have already announced and which has been anticipated for some time since the decision to lower the fares between England and India. The chief consideration which the P. & O. Co. has had to make has been the opposition of Russia's Trans-Siberian line, which could not but give a vast impetus to all rival routes. Sir THOMAS, speaking on this subject, said: "We cannot compete with the railway in point of rapidity of transit, but we can compete with the railway in point of fares, and accordingly we have decided to reduce our passenger-fares to China considerably. . . . It is just possible that eventually the existence of that railway may prove to be a benefit to us. . . . Passengers may have the great advantage of travelling out by the Siberian Railway and the still greater advantage of coming home by the P. & O. Company." This was a happy way of putting it, and the speaker emphasised his remarks by recalling how the development of the Pacific Railway had taken away from the P. & O. Co. a great number of passengers to China and Japan, but had brought into existence a large amount of world travel, from which the Company derived its share of benefit. In the early days of the

Company, Sir THOMAS SUTHERLAND, when he was superintendent for the Company at Hongkong, was in favour of the taking up by them of the Pacific run. But, though the Company has not so done, the opening of that new route was nevertheless a source of gain, and it is hoped that the Siberian line will in the same way prove of advantage. Sir THOMAS on the 11th ultimo expressed the opinion that his Company felt no jealousy or ill-will in connection with the creation of the Siberian route. It was pointed out in the *London and China Express* last month that though the competition of the new Russian railway was not to be feared as a serious competitor, but rather as an adjunct to the passenger list, it might be different, with the mails. Still, as it is not known yet what the British Government's views are on the question of the new mail contracts, it is useless to speculate what may happen. At present, Hongkong at least does not gain in time by the Siberian as against the P. & O. Co. mail service.

HONGKONG JOTTINGS.

(Daily Press, 18th January.)

Hongkong still wells in the midst of alarms, and being bankrupt of news tries to emulate the historic fame of Shanghai. Although we have no Bund, we have many "bunders"—or should we called them "Pray-ers"? Certainly some people seem anxious to hasten on the war if talking can do it. Unfortunately for us in Hongkong, we live in a place where news does not travel rapidly, though our relatives at home may imagine us as next door to Shanghai and even Peking. There being no Mr. Hearst in Hongkong to get news regardless of cost, we cannot be as well supplied as the good people of New York, Chicago, and San Francisco. Nor can we aspire to the luxuries of the *Daily Mail* even; I for one do not wish to. But doubtless my preference for no news rather than all kind of "news" of the newest kind will be looked on as Pharisaic. But to return to the subject, the past few weeks have offered a splendid opportunity for news invention. It has not been missed. But it is the public, not the newspapers, which is the sensation-monger. A Far Eastern public is really very ingenious in its attempts to add to the excitement of life.

It is a matter that has always caused me surprise, how the numerous beachcombers whom one sees in Hongkong manage to make a living at all. What do they get to eat, and where do they sleep? As a matter of fact many of them walk the streets all night and sleep in the heat of the day, or else find a bed in a warm corner of some new building, such as those now being erected in Des Vœux Road, which I am told are favourite haunts of that fraternity. The more fortunate one who has been able to "strike" some passer-by for thirty cents drifts Chinatownwards, where in one of the numerous small restaurants he can for that sum procure a substantial beefsteak, a cup of coffee, a bed to sleep on, and a blanket to cover him. Most of them would rather risk getting no sustenance at all than go into a house of detention, where at least they are always sure of a meal and shelter from the weather.

Hongkong appears to be somewhat of a city of pitfalls at the present time. D'Aguiar Street, Wyndham Street, and the Ice House Street are slippery enough in their inclines leading down to Queen's Road, but for some reason unknown, and apparently unnecessary, for the last few days they have been flooded with water, rendering the roads actually dangerous for pedestrians in a hurry. As these roads are of solid stone and in parts of concrete I fail to see the necessity of doing more than sprinkling them to allay the very small modicum of dust that accumulates on the surfaces. If a little more concrete and a little less water were laid down on them these roads might, in time, lose their reputation of being the pitfalls of Hongkong.

It is very amusing sometimes to see how the Chinese array themselves in old European garments. There is one familiar figure who tends a sweetmeat-stall in Battery Path, "European John" to wit. He wears his clothes rationally. I noticed one little fellow the other day resplendent in an old fancy waistcoat and a crownless top-hat. Hats and caps especially appear to appeal to the Chinese. They will wear anything of that kind which they can lay their hands on, straw hats, felt hats, and ordinary cloth caps being adopted by them with celerity. I suppose, by the way, most of these articles are pilferings from European houses. But the most fantastic dress I have seen was an ancient Highland tartan kilt fashioned into the semblance of a winter coat, and the Chinaman who wore it was consciously proud of his garb, though I do not suppose he knew the clan of which he displayed the colours.

The European seeker after curios out here is a source of revenue to many an unscrupulous native vendor, who, knowing from long experience the articles most sought after by ardent collectors, always contrives to have a plentiful supply on hand. No doubt, could the origin of some of these "curios" be discovered, they would excite much amusement and admiration at the ingenious manner in which genial "John" keeps pace with the demand for his wares. The following instance in regard to the manufacture of "antique" porcelain was narrated to the writer by a Chinaman. A method whereby the appearance of century-old China can be, and is simulated, is to kill a dog and place the new, comparatively valueless, porcelain in its inside, afterwards burying same in the earth. At the end of a year, so my informant states, the ware is transformed, to all outward appearance, when exhumed, into a choice specimen of veritable "antique." But the Chinaman is nothing if not ingenious!

I hear that the Masonic Quadrille Club is to wind up its season with a ball on the 4th prox. at the City Hall. It has been suggested to me, and I think the suggestion a good one, that it would be a very fitting finale to that club's most successful season if the projected ball were to be a fancy ball—either an ordinary ball at which all the guests appear in fancy costumes, or where all appear in some selected colour, making it a white, blue, pink or other coloured ball, where the ladies and gentlemen alike dress in any way they please, but in the selected colour, the decorations all being in accord with the colour chosen. I have seen these balls, and the effect is very striking, especially when a sense of humour enters into the conception of the participant's costumes. I would commend the suggestion for the consideration of Mr. Harry Wolfe, President of the Masonic Quadrille Club, whose efforts have made the monthly concerts so popular.

It must certainly come as rather a sudden surprise to the person who, at one moment comfortably seated in a ricksha, the next discovers himself performing gyrations in the air, having suddenly and involuntarily parted company with his whilom means of locomotion. Zest is added to the affair by the blissful uncertainty as to which particular section of one's anatomy is destined to be the first to demonstrate the truth of Newton's Law of Gravitation. But scant time for any such philosophical reflection was accorded to an occupant of one of the afore-mentioned vehicles last Saturday evening, when travelling at a brisk rate along Queen's Road in the direction of the Clock Tower. Owing to the insidious action of the car-rails and the resultant unevenness of the road surface, combined with the well-known spirit of "can do" that permeates the Chinese soul, the lynch-pin whose duty it is to act as a support to the wheel suddenly forsook its post. The wheel promptly followed suit in regard to the vehicle, and the "fare" likewise found himself making an unpremeditated and undignified departure from his coign of vantage. Fortunately for himself, he was able to regain his normal balance after executing an impromptu *pas-seul*.—but things might have terminated less happily. As usual, when anything of a similar nature takes place, the incident was much

appreciated by those sons of China who witnessed it.

I read the following in a recent home paper:—"Perhaps the most novel newspaper of modern times will be the one which five young and pretty Chinese girls have arranged to publish in Canton. It is to be called *The Canton Record* and will not be a woman's paper entirely, as it is to give up as much space to politics and science as to fashion and society. All the girls interested in the project have had the advantage of a liberal education. They are all the daughters of prominent families, with money to back them." We can only wonder that our contemporaries did not state that the paper was to be called *The Canton Daily Mirror*. That is a very effective touch, too, about the "young and pretty" Chinese girls who are to run the paper. But would it be possible to describe any lady journalists otherwise? Surely not.

A vexed question of Volunteer uniform is to be settled soon, for I see that H.E. the Officer Administering the Government has approved a uniform for the Hongkong Volunteers which may be procured by members of the corps for wear at concerts, etc.; the pattern is to be approved by the Commandant, and the expense to be born by the members themselves.

BANYAN.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Legislative Council was held on the 19th inst. in the Council Chamber. Present:—

HIS EXCELLENCY THE OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT, F. H. MAY, C.M.G.
MAJOR-GENERAL VILLIERS HATTON, C.B.
(Commanding the Troops).

Hon. A. M. THOMSON (Acting Colonial Secretary).

Hon. Sir HENRY S. BERKELEY, Kt.
(Attorney-General).

Hon. L. A. M. JOHNSTON (Acting Colonial Treasurer).

Hon. A. W. BREWIN (Registrar-General).

Hon. BASIL R. H. TAYLOR (Harbour Master).

Hon. W. CHATHAM (Director of Public Works).

Hon. Sir C. P. CHATER, C.M.G.

Hon. Dr. HO KAI, C.M.G.

Hon. WEI A YUK.

Hon. C. W. DICKSON.

Hon. GERSHOM STEWART.

Mr. R. F. JOHNSTON (Acting Clerk of Councils).

PAPERS.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table the Report of the Committee appointed by His Excellency the Governor to enquire into the causes of Chinese infantile mortality in the Colony; a Report by the D.P.W. on Tytamtuk Waterworks Scheme for City and Hill District Supply; and a paper dealing with an increase of the Police Force.

FINANCIAL.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table Financial Minutes (Nos. 1 to 6) and moved that they be referred to the Finance Committee.

The ACTING COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table the Report of the Finance Committee (No. 13) and moved its adoption.

The ACTING COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

REGISTRATION OF DOMESTIC SERVANTS.

Hon. H. E. POLLOCK—Your Excellency, I would ask permission to lay upon the table a petition which has been signed by numerous ladies in the Colony with reference to the registration of domestic servants. That petition, sir, is not formally addressed to the members of this Council, but it has to do with legislation, and therefore, sir, I think it is fit that it should be laid upon the table of this Council.

HIS EXCELLENCY—I think the hon. member's petition is not in order and cannot be laid upon the table of this Council. I think the hon. member must have received a letter addressed to him by the Colonial Secretary by my direction stating that as the

petition is addressed to the Officer Administering the Government and not addressed to the hon. members of this Council, it is therefore not in order.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—Of course I bow to your Excellency's ruling, but as the petition has to do with legislation it seems to me that it could be laid upon the table of the Council.

SANITARY BYE-LAWS.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table and moved the approval of a repeal of bye-laws made by the Sanitary Board under Sub-section 7 of Section 16 of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, 1903:—"The Bye-laws under the heading 'Nightsoil Carriers' contained in Schedule 'B' of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, 1903, are hereby repealed." He said—Sir, this is rendered necessary by the new system.

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS seconded the motion, and it was agreed to.

SUMMONING OF CHINESE ORDINANCE.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY moved the following resolution:—"Whereas by section 5 of the Summoning of Chinese Ordinance, 1899 (No. 40 of 1899), it was enacted that the said Ordinance should only continue in operation for the period of two years from the coming into operation of the said Ordinance and for such further period or periods as might, from time to time, be determined by Resolution of the Legislative Council, and whereas such operation has been continued by Resolution of this Council till the 30th day of March, 1904, inclusive:—It is hereby resolved by this Council that the Summoning of Chinese Ordinance, 1899, shall be further continued in operation for the further period of two years from the 31st day of March, 1904, inclusive." He said—I may say, sir, that the working of this Ordinance has been found to put no hardship on anyone. It is a small convenience, and it may well continue in operation for other two years.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

OPENING OF STREETS.

Hon. GERSHOM STEWART asked:—

(1.) Under what conditions are public companies or private individuals permitted to pick up and obstruct the public highways?

(2.) In the event of the party responsible being dilatory in the completion of the work involving the picking up of public roads, what powers have the Government to compel them to proceed with expedition?

(3.) Can offenders be fined so much per diem if found negligent?

(4.) Are the crossings provided during the construction of the low level tramway, where the public highways are picked up, passed by the Public Works Department as proper and adequate for the traffic they have to carry?

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS replied as follows:—

(1.) Some Companies, such as the Gas Company, have powers under agreements entered into with the Government; others, such as the Electric Tramway Company, have powers conferred upon them by Ordinance. In every case notice to and authority from the Director of Public Works is required.

(2.) Companies are required to complete the work for which they have broken up any road with due diligence or with all convenient speed and to restore the road to good condition to the satisfaction of the Director of Public Works. The powers of the Government depend upon the terms of the agreement, the conditions of the permit issued by the Director of Public Works, or the provisions of the Ordinance affecting the case.

(3.) The Tramway Ordinance 1902, section 12 provides such a penalty; other cases must depend upon the terms of the agreement or permit.

(4.) No, but where it is brought to my notice that the crossings are inadequate I call upon the Company to provide increased facilities. The responsibility for any accident, damages or injuries rests with the Tramway Company (vide S. 79 of Ordinance No. 10 of 1902).

UNDESIRABLE IMMIGRANTS.

The Council went into Committee on the Bill entitled An Ordinance to provide for the Recovery of Charges incurred by the Colony on account of certain undesirable persons introduced into the Colony.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK moved that in the 4th line of Section 3, sub-section 1, the words "Health Officer of the Port" be substituted for "Medical Officer of Health." His reason for moving this amendment was that it was the Medical Officer of the Port who ordinarily went off to board vessels, and therefore it would be convenient that permission in such cases should emanate from him as well as from the P.C.M.O.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL accepted the amendment and it was agreed to.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK next moved that in the 5th and 4th lines from the end of the same sub section the words "became lunatic, idiotic or imbecile after" be deleted and the words "was apparently sane at the time of" be substituted. It occurred to him, that there were a good many cases of people who became violent during the course of a passage although when they came on board they were apparently sane. It might happen that such persons had been previously imbecile. There were a good many cases of lunacy in which the periods of sanity would last sometimes for some years, sometimes only for a few days. Therefore it was very important that this matter should be placed on a clear basis, because it might be suggested thereafter that if it was proved that a person who was apparently sane at the time of embarkation and became violent during the voyage had at some prior period been a lunatic, idiot or imbecile, the shipowner could not escape liability. He wanted it made clear that the shipowner was not to be held liable in such cases.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL thought the suggestion was hardly one that could be accepted. The words of the Bill were quite clear and specific. The hon. member wanted them to substitute the words "apparently sane at the time of." "Apparently" to whom—to the shipowner or to some other person on board not named? To substitute these words would be to defeat the whole intention of the Bill. It was intended that the onus should be thrown upon the ship of excusing itself for bringing here a lunatic and making him a charge upon the Colony and such excuse was to be proof that the man became lunatic after embarkation.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK replied that the party deposing that a person was "apparently sane" would be liable to cross-examination in a court of justice as to why and under what circumstances he said so; it was a matter that could be investigated.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL remarked that the principle of the Bill was that the person who brought an imbecile here was liable; but there was a just exception made, in order to prevent hardship upon the shipowner, that provided the lunatic so brought was not a lunatic at the time he embarked but became so on the voyage, then the owner would be held excused.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK said that was quite reasonable if it was defined what was meant by becoming a lunatic. If it meant when any person was embarked who was apparently absolutely sane that the shipowner was not to be held liable merely because such person had been subject to periods of lunacy prior to embarkation, that would get rid of his objection.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL contended that "became lunatic" was a very explicit phrase.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK said the party might have been out of his mind five or six times prior to the voyage in question.

HIS EXCELLENCY did not think there was a great deal in that point; the words the hon. member wished to substitute were really too indefinite.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK asked whether it was intended to make shipowners liable supposing the party had been a lunatic before?

HIS EXCELLENCY said it certainly was. Only recently a case occurred in which a man who had been in a lunatic asylum here was sent back; he had become a lunatic again.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK argued that that was a case in which the shipowner had no knowledge of it, and he thought the Attorney-General would agree that it was a general principle of English law which was founded on the most elementary principles of justice that no person or body of people should be subject to a penalty unless they had got criminal intention. Why should a shipowner be liable when a person embarked, simply because he might at some

previous stage, absolutely unknown to the shipowner, have been a lunatic?

HIS EXCELLENCY said there was a law which said you were not to bring a person suffering from leprosy into the Colony. If you were to qualify it by saying "apparently not suffering" you would never reach prohibition at all. There were several precedents for the principle of this Bill. There was the Vagrancy Ordinance in this Colony. If you had to qualify it by saying that the shipowner would be exempt if the person was "apparently not destitute" the object of the Ordinance would be defeated.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL added that it did not go so far as the Alien Immigration Commission. He read a cutting from the *Daily Mail* quite recently, in which the recommendations were stated and among others they recommended that all immigrants becoming undesirable and destitute within two years after landing in England shall be liable to expulsion and repatriation at the cost of the shipowners who brought them there.

In reply to HIS EXCELLENCY,

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK said he wished to press his motion if the Government intended that the shipowner should be held liable if he took a passenger in good faith without any knowledge of his being out of his mind or there being any reason to suppose that he was so at some previous stage long before his embarkation.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL replied that what they said was that if the man was at the time he landed a lunatic and became within three months thereafter chargeable to the Colony then the shipowner was liable unless he could prove that the man he brought here was not lunatic when he came on board the ship but became lunatic on the voyage. The real principle of elementary justice was that where two persons were equally innocent—in this case the shipowner and the public of the Colony—he who was the approximate cause of any cost arising should bear it. The Colony owed no duty to a stranger brought here by the shipowner, who got his passage money and brought him here.

On a division being taken the amendment was defeated by a majority of 11 to 1 (Hon. Mr. Pollock).

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK next moved that in the last and second last lines of the same sub-section the words "five thousand dollars" be altered to "one thousand dollars." He thought \$5000 was a very heavy penalty in view of the interpretation being put upon this section. In the case of the Opium Farm the maximum penalty was \$1,000.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL said this was not a penalty.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK retorted that they were practically penalising the shipowner.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL suggested they might strike out the proviso altogether.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK said it seemed to him that the hon. member was entirely flippant and out of order. \$1,000 was quite a sufficient penalty.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL thought the hon. member misconceived the meaning of the proviso to the clause. It was put in by way of limiting the liability of the shipowner, not of imposing any liability upon him. If a lunatic was brought here and kept for 40 years the shipowner would have to pay the whole of the cost of his maintenance for that period but it was thought that a maximum might be fixed and limited and so the Government on the proposition of Mr. Dickson put it that the liability should not exceed \$5000. So far from his remarks being frivolous and out of order he thought they were extremely necessary and to the point.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK remarked that this was a limitation of liability and he was asking for a further limitation. When he was asking for this it was entirely flippant and out of order on the part of the Attorney-General to ask the deletion of the clause restricting the liability to \$5,000.

HIS EXCELLENCY pointed out that the average cost of a lunatic was about \$700 a year, so that \$1,000 would cover little over one year's expense. When a lunatic came to the Colony, too, he was generally a very difficult person to get rid of and stayed a good long time. He thought \$1,000 was not unreasonable. In the original Bill there was

no limitation at all; they limited it in deference to the representations made by certain unofficial members.

On a division the amendment was defeated by 11 to 2 (Hon. Messrs Dickson and Pollock). (Mr. Dickson was not present at the previous division.)

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved a verbal amendment of lines 5 and 6 of the same sub-section so as to make that part read as follows:—"any person who being at the time of landing a lunatic, idiotic or imbecile shall become within a period of three months," etc., so as to make it clear up a misapprehension that the effect of the section as printed was to make the shipowner liable for bringing here a man who was not a lunatic at the time he landed but became such within three months after landing.

The amendment was agreed to.

With reference to section 3, sub-section 2. Hon. GERSHO: STEWART thought it seemed to confer on the captain of a ship absolute control of any person on board. He moved that in line 1, before the word "Every," the words "In case such permission as aforesaid is refused" be inserted; and that in the 3rd and 4th lines the words "without such permission as aforesaid" be deleted.

This was agreed to.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK proposed an addition to that sub-section making it compulsory on the P.C.M.O. or the Medical Officer of the Port to give a certificate to the master of a vessel to the effect that he had refused to land such a person in the Colony.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL said he had no objection to that.

After some discussion it was agreed that this amendment should take the form of a sub-section, No. 3, as follows:—"In every case in which permission to land from any vessel is refused under the authority of this Ordinance the officer refusing such permission shall give a certificate to the master of said vessel if so required by him."

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved that the short title of the Bill be altered to "The Imbecile Persons Introduction Ordinance, 1903."

This was agreed to.

The Bill then passed through Committee.

HIS EXCELLENCY said it would be printed and be ready for next meeting.

The Council adjourned *sine die*.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Finance Committee was held immediately after the Council—the Acting Colonial Secretary (Hon. A. M. Thomson) presiding.

The following votes were passed:—

CABLE AND TELEPHONES.

The Officer Administering the Government recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$7,000 in aid of vote No. 19, "Cable for Observatory and other Telephone lines to Kowloon,—Public Works, Extraordinary."

LEPERS AT AUTAU.

The Officer Administering the Government recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$300 in aid of the vote "Police—Other Charges" on account of rations for Lepers in the Asylum at Autau in the New Territory.

EDUCATIONAL VOTE.

The Officer Administering the Government recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$3,600 in aid of the vote "Education, Inspector of Schools—Other Charges" to meet the cost of participating in a scheme for the visual instruction of children as regards the geographical features, life and industries of the various parts of the Empire.

POLICE VOTE.

The Officer Administering the Government recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$42,845 for the following:—

POLICE.

Personal Emoluments.

50 Chinese constables at \$150 each...	\$ 7,500
Ration allowances	600
23 3rd class constables promoted to 2nd class; difference	690
Allowances for 6 detectives	360
Increased ration allowances	1,675
8 1st class constables promoted to be 4 1st class Sergeants and 4 2nd class Sergeants difference	720

Increases to 52 seamen	624
2 Barrack Sergeants at \$240 instead of \$168 each; difference	144
2 Station Sergeants at \$168 each instead of \$144 and \$156; difference	36
16 3rd class engineers and coxswains at \$216 to \$240 each instead of \$216 and 8 stokers at \$144 to \$168 instead of \$144 each (previous service to count); difference...	96

Total Personal Emoluments \$12,445
Other Charges.

Clothing, &c.	\$ 1,900
Lodging allowances during alterations to Central Police Station...	500

Total Other Charges

Public Works Extraordinary.	
Addition of Storey to Central Police Station	\$28,000

Grand Total \$42,845.

TRAINING NULLAHS.

The Officer Administering the Government recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$9,500 in aid of the vote Public Works, Extraordinary, to meet cost of training nullahs in the vicinity of the Bay View Hotel, and filling up water-holes, &c.

SANITARY DEPARTMENT.

The Officer Administering the Government recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$4,623.90 in aid of the vote Sanitary Department under Personal Emoluments:—

1. Assistant Secretary (from 11th January to 31st December, 1904) ...	\$2,335 50
Assistant Secretary Exchange Compensation	1,868 40
2. Correspondence Clerk (additional Salary)	420 00

Total

The Officer Administering the Government recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$25,395.24 in aid of the vote Public Works, Extraordinary, for the following items:—

1. Extension of Inspectors' Quarters at Kennedy Town	\$ 1,250 00
2. Tai Po Road	5,000 00
3. Extension of Wanchai Market	645 24
4. Cattle Depot Extension	15,000 00
5. Public Mortuary, Extension and Reconstruction	3,500 00

Total

This was all the business.

THE FISCAL PLEBISCITE IN HONGKONG.

The final figures in connection with the local plebiscite with regard to the Fiscal policy now being enunciated by Mr. Chamberlain, which concluded on the evening of the 16th inst. at the City Hall, were as follows:—

For Mr. Chamberlain's policy	392
Against	20

Majority for

On the 18th inst. a telegram was sent off to Mr. Joseph Chamberlain in connection with the plebiscite. The following is the text:—

"Right Honourable Joseph Chamberlain Birmingham five days plebiscite of merchants bankers shipping representatives and others British Subjects resident here taken here for or against your Fiscal Policy from Imperial not local standpoint result 392 for 20 against Sir C. P. Chater Hongkong

L'Echo de Chine of Shanghai used to pass for a sober journal. That it is no longer so may have been gathered from some remarks and parts of articles which we have quoted from it lately. What now are we to make of this? In its issue of the 10th inst. it has a leading article headed "A New Phase of the Crisis." In 1897, it says, "if our memory is good, the English Admiral left for Port Arthur with a magnificent fleet, but never arrived there. An amiable Russian agent had left for him at Ch-foo a very sweet surprise: 'We have five ships at Port Arthur, but they are very precious and each of them is worth the empire of India.' So history repeats itself, and India has its price."

JAPAN AND RUSSIA.

We take the following paragraphs from the *Kobe Chronicle* of the 9th inst.:

Yesterday there was a rumour in Kobe that Japanese and Russian warships had come into collision off Isumi, and that the Japanese had proved victorious. It was a mere canard, however, probably arising from the fact that the Japanese Squadron was reported to have left Sasebo for an unknown destination, and that two or three Russian warships had previously been reported to have left Vladivostok for Port Arthur. Of course a collision would not be impossible, as over-zealous officers might be tempted to act without orders in the present strained relations, but we think a conflict will not be forced in that way.

Acting on instructions received from Tokyo, Mr. Hattori, the Governor of Hyogo prefecture, called representatives of the various local journals, Japanese and foreign, to the Kencho yesterday, and addressed them on the necessity of closely observing the notifications with reference to the exclusion of news dealing with the military or naval movements. The situation, said the Governor, was extremely grave, and it was because of the gravity of the situation that the notification had been issued. No indication must be given of the whereabouts of warships or transports, the number of transports chartered, the materials of war in process of manufacture, or even the amount of the War Fund expended. The question was so important, added the Governor, that he had thought it best to address the representatives of the newspapers in person rather than delegate the matter to subordinate officials.

The gravest news regarding the situation reaches us as we go to press. There is no longer any doubt that the Russian reply handed to the Japanese Government on Wednesday was of such a nature as to form a virtual rejection of the principal demands made by Japan. The reply is silent as to Manchuria, and the concessions offered regarding Corea are looked upon by the Government as merely a ruse to protract negotiations and gain time. The conference held on Thursday between the Ministers and the chiefs of the Army and Navy Staff Departments was practically to decide on the immediate measures that are to be taken to enforce Japan's demands, which presumably means that operations will be begun without further delay.

Our contemporary, the *Osaka Asahi*, informs us that last night it received a despatch from its Tokyo correspondent who has had an interview with a high and responsible official. This official is reported to have said:—"The situation is now more than critical. The forces of the two countries are practically waiting an opportunity to open fire. Under these circumstances the Government is now in a position to give information in regard to past events leading up to the present position as soon as enquiries are made by responsible leaders of the political parties. Journalists may now inform their readers that the country is on the eve of war, even if they must not state anything with regard to actual movements, though this prohibition will probably be removed in a few days. Journalists should urge bankers and wealthy men to contribute to the War Fund, and patriots should be urged to send such articles as will be appreciated by the soldiers. This action will encourage the troops and let the enemy know the feeling of Japan."

In view of the above news we greatly fear that all hopes of a pacific settlement are now at an end.

The *N.-C. Daily News* says:—It comes from a well-informed source in Japan that the two cruisers, *Nisshin* and *Kasuga*, now coming out from Genoa to reinforce the Japanese fleet, will be delivered in Shanghai. They are said to be coming out as far as here under the British flag, though why British rather than Argentine, that of the government from which they have been purchased, is not stated.

The *Shanghai Mercury* in its issue of the 14th inst. understands that a squadron of the Japanese fleet has been seen cruising near the Ladd Islands. Referring to this editorially the *Mercury* says:—"Outside Woosung and near the Saddles is a squadron of Japanese war-vessels and torpedo-boats. They may be

merely out there for a cruise, but they may be waiting for the final word to seize a stray Russian war-vessel or a steamer they know to be laden with munitions of war. But although the horizon looks dark, we still hope and believe that Russia, as is her wont, will cave in at the very last moment.

The *Yorodsu* states that the Japanese Government has decided to float war bonds to the amount of 100,000,000 yen bearing five per cent. interest, at the rate of 96 for every 100 yen. The bonds will be floated in Japan in the event of an outbreak of hostilities between Russia and Japan. The floating of the new bonds will be officially announced. In the meantime all preparations are being made for the issue of the bonds.

The *Japan Herald*, in the following paragraph, shows by example the result of the Press censorship on the vernacular press:—A rumour, probably originating in the Stock Exchange, was circulated in town this afternoon that a naval battle had taken place in the between a and war-ship, with the result that the latter was driven ashore. We have been unable to obtain any confirmation of this rumour. The report is said to have emanated from Owing to the Press regulations we are unable to publish fuller details.

L'Echo de Chine in a recent issue reports that M. Delcassé stated in a meeting of the French Cabinet that the situation in the Far East appears to be improving.

The Russian Budget, it is said, has nowhere caused any special remarks in Europe. Under the heading of "Expenses in the Far East" is the amount of seventeen million roubles for the construction of a railway going round Lake Baikal.

BRITISH ACTIVITY IN THE FAR EAST.

HONGKONG AS A NAVAL BASE.

Hongkong, being Britain's Far Eastern naval and military base, is now a great centre of War Department activity. Go where you may, along the foot of the hill, on the slopes, in the harbour and even over on the Kowloon side, military or naval bugles are to be heard. There is no great display, but the men—numbers of them—are always there, ready for embarkation or other orders at a moment's notice. Every now and again a British warship dodges in or out of port with as little ceremony as the departure of an ordinary freighter; tiny destroyers, too, are always on the move. Periodically, a transport arrives from India, or farther west, shortly afterwards making a departure for more northern places; on the return journey they again look in to pick up detachments of time-expired men. Several mail steamers calling here are ex-transport, having acted as such during the South African war; at a moment's notice they could be fitted up as ideal troop-ships to pour in soldiers from India or other parts of the Empire. Though Britain has been accused—rightly accused, perhaps—of taking a deep sleep in Extreme Asia, it looks as if she is waking up. She has wonderful resources out here—resources which are difficult, if not impossible, to equal. Hongkong itself may well be termed the "Gibraltar of the Far East"; if it is not impregnable it very nearly approximates to that. Large ammunition stores concealed on the hillside are connected with numerous batteries at different parts of the island by small-gauge rails. Abreast of the man-of-war anchorage is the Naval Yard, where, from Queen's Road, may be seen long tiers of latest pattern breech-loading guns of every size and condition. Near by are large stacks of common, shrapnel, and armour-piercing projectiles, besides other munitions of war too numerous for detail. Nearer citywards is encountered the new naval dockyard, now in course of construction; when this is completed the Admiralty will be entirely independent of outside concerns. On the Kowloon side is a torpedo depot where smaller craft are cared for. At Yau-mati, also, we find Admiralty coal and fuel-sheds; there is more coal, and broad-arrow-marked patent fuel there than one would care to speculate about. At present warships are coaled by means of junks. Junks take in coal by going alongside a rough wondon pier projecting from the water-front, and convey it to

warships moored on the other side of the harbour. This having been found an unsatisfactory arrangement the Admiralty recently entered into a contract with Messrs. Punchard, Lowther & Co. to construct a coaling pier and jetty projecting from the coal-sheds. The work, which has to be finished in three years—it may be finished in two—is estimated to cost £100,000. In shape the pier will be something like the trunk of a tree well bent over on one side. From a broad base it will gradually assume a width of 18 feet, the length being about 200 feet. At the end will be a concrete and granite wharf, dimensions being about 250 feet long by 90 or 100 feet broad. It is on the off side of this where men-of-war are to go alongside. Depth of water there is about 25 feet, but dredgers are busily at work, it being intended to have 30 feet at low water. The pier itself will be of foreshore stone and hard rubble; some 15 25-cubic-yard boats dump their loads there daily. Concrete blocks will be made at Messrs. Punchard, Lowther's extensive works at Matakok. Blocks made there up to date are being sent to the new dockyard works on the Hongkong side, where 1,000 a month are utilised. The granite comes from quarries and blastings down the Matakok hills. On the lumps being brought to the works, they are lifted by a crane on to a platform, and then thrown into the wedge-shaped jaws of a stone-crusher. There they are quickly chewed up. One jaw of that wedge-shaped gap is always on the move, working to and fro by machinery. The crushings fall into trucks below; when filled, these are towed away by an engine—there are three powerful locomotives in all. On the trucks reaching the summit of an incline, the crushings are emptied on to a platform, from where they are taken in measurements and put into a revolving mixer, to be stirred up with measurements of sand and Green Island cement. From the mixer the concoction is emptied into smaller trucks to be taken off to moulds; it remains in the moulds a fortnight or so before being taken out in the form of blocks. Blocks are conveyed to Hongkong in block-barges; they are put down by divers. Many great naval undertakings at Hongkong are of recent date. Let us hope that England's motto with regard to Hongkong as a base will be "Progress."

INCREASE OF THE HONGKONG POLICE FORCE.

The following paper was submitted at the meeting of the Legislative Council on Tuesday:—

Government House,

Hongkong, 6th November, 1903.

Sir,—I recently referred the question of increasing the police force to the Colonial Secretary and Acting Captain Superintendent of Police for report, and I have now the honour to inform you that this question has been carefully considered by the Colonial Secretary and Captain Lyons, who had, under date of the 29th September, asked that 50 Chinese Police might be temporarily engaged and paid for out of lapsing salaries in the Department in order to tide over the season immediately preceding the Chinese New Year, when there is usually an accession of crime.

2. It is found that, owing to the extension of the area of the city by the Praya Reclamation which is now largely built over, the extensive building that has taken place on the new roads on the upper levels (Macdonnell and Conduit Roads) and extensions of the city eastwards, the addition of 21 night beats and 17 day beats in the City of Victoria is required. To keep these beats covered 55 men are required, while 14 additional men are wanted to cover new beats and patrols in the Kowloon Peninsula rendered necessary by the large additions of buildings that have been made there recently.

Owing to the increase in the Chinese population, which it is estimated is greater by 33,000 persons than it was in 1901 when the last census was taken, and to the increased number of steamers running between Hongkong, Canton and Macao, all of which have to be watched by the Police, an increase of 6 men is required for the Chinese Detective Staff. This makes a total of 75 men.

3. The Police in the New Territory have, however, during last year and this year, been reduced by 21 men, and these men are already

utilised to cover some of the new ground. Consequently after making due allowance for men sick and on leave it is calculated that an addition of 60 constables will amply suffice for all present requirements. From this number, 10 already provided for in 1904 Estimates (2 of the 12 men actually provided are required for Capsuimun Station) can be deducted, leaving 50 as the number to be provided.

4. The Acting Captain Superintendent of Police recommends, and I concur with him, that the 50 men should be Chinese constables of the 2nd class, and I attach a statement which shows that the cost of this addition to the Force and of appointing 6 more Chinese Detectives will be \$10,360 for next year.

5. The Colonial Secretary also made certain recommendations for improving the conditions of service of the Chinese Land and Water Police. I approve of all of these recommendations and I have included them in the statement attached. If they receive your sanction the total additional expenditure involved will be \$4,215, including certain increases to the Chinese Barrack and Station Sergeants in the Water Police, which have been recommended by Captain Lyons.

6. In order to house these additional Police, I recommend that another storey be added to the Central Police Station.

This will give accommodation for 54 additional Asiatic Police besides providing, by a re-arrangement of rooms, increased store and office accommodation, both of which are much needed owing to the large increase in numbers of the Force since the acquisition of the New Territory, and the addition of an Assistant Superintendent of Police for Victoria, who has at present no office.

The Barracks are at present so overcrowded that some 25 Chinese constables are housed in a hutted in the compound of the station. This is a very unsatisfactory arrangement. The additional storey will enable these men to be brought within the building and will also afford accommodation for those of the extra Police (25) who will be allocated to the Central District. Room can be found in the Eastern and Western Districts of the City for the additional men allocated to them, while in the Kowloon Peninsula some additional accommodation can be provided at small cost at Yau-mati and Hung-hom.

7. The cost of an additional storey to the Central Police Station is estimated at \$28,000, while \$500 will be required to accommodate some 50 of the Police who must vacate a portion of the Barracks during the alteration.

I have to ask your authority to incur this expenditure, together with the sum necessary to defray the cost of increase of Police and of salaries shown in schedule. (Schedule not printed).

9. I attach copy of a report (not printed) which I called for from the Senior Police Magistrate and the Acting Captain Superintendent of Police on the increase of crime and increased number of prisoners in the gaol. This report shows that there was a large increase in crime in the first quarter of the current year and a still further increase in the third quarter of the year.

This increase in crime is, in my opinion, largely due to the increased number of steamers running between Hongkong and Canton and Hongkong and Macao and to the reduction of fares as the result of competition in the traffic.

Six steamers run daily now to Canton, whereas formerly there were only 3, and the fares have been reduced since the end of last year from 60 cents to 30 cents for Chinese 2nd class passengers.

A thief can visit Hongkong from Canton for 60 cents now, and this no doubt tempts many to do so, while the increased channels of escape make the detection of crime more difficult.

10. I consider therefore that the increase in Police is urgently required, and should you approve of the recommendations made I should be glad if you would telegraph your sanction in order that steps may be taken to increase the accommodation at the Central Station during the dry season and for recruiting the necessary men.—I have, &c.,

H. A. BLAKE, Governor.

Secretary of State's approval received by telegram dated the 14th December, 1903.

REGISTRATION OF DOMESTIC SERVANTS.

The following is the petition which Hon. H. E. Pollock desired to present at the Legislative Council on Tuesday, and which was ruled out of order:—

1.—Your Petitioners, ladies of the European Community in this Colony, respectfully request that legislation may be introduced to cope with the existing difficulties in connection with Chinese domestic servants, viz.—boys, house-coolies, cooks, vehicle-coolies, and ayahs.

2.—During the greater part of every day we are left alone in our houses, and in the majority of cases the domestic servants, taking advantage of the absence of the master of the house, disobey orders, are lazy and insolent.

3.—Our husbands or brothers, owing to their business engagements, have not the time to spend in instituting and attending prosecutions at the Magistracy, and it is highly distasteful as well as most inconvenient to ourselves—especially in the summer season—to take steps personally to have offenders punished.

4.—Our only remedy is to dismiss the offending parties; but such dismissal is a poor remedy, for we must engage fresh servants, unless, as often happens, we are boycotted, and such fresh servants come to us as a rule without any certificates of character. Even if they bring certificates of character we are often unable to find out whether the character relates to the person presenting it, for there is no means of identification, and the perpetual fluctuation of the European community renders enquiry as to the bona-fides of an applicant impossible in many cases.

5.—Some of us have lived for many years in this Colony, and can state most positively that the demeanour and capability of domestic servants have deteriorated in recent years, with the result that domestic economy is a source of increasing annoyance and strain every day to your petitioners, who have enough already to contend with in the climatic conditions.

6.—We respectfully assert that our relation to domestic servants cannot be judged by that which prevails at Government House or Headquarters House, or in bachelor establishments. The perquisites and the status of servants at Government House or Headquarters House tend to render them more attentive, respectful, and diligent; whilst the pay in bachelor establishments is notoriously very high, and therefore attractive, though in bachelor establishments there are, we believe more often than not, grave causes of complaint on the side of the masters.

7.—We further submit that our experience should not be compared with, or rejected in favour of, the experience of the few influential members of the community who obtain their servants through a Chinese compradore, who is responsible for their conduct, and whose interest it is to see that no cause of trouble arises in respect of incivility, or wages, or any other matter.

8.—We would impress on Your Excellency that we represent the bulk of the European ladies of Hongkong, and that we have a right to have our grievances seriously and impartially considered and legislated for.

9.—We are not asking for oppressive legislation in our favour as against the interests of the Chinese; we are merely asking that every Chinese who offers himself or herself as a servant should come with credentials which can be relied upon. It must be obvious that any system which raises the standard of servants must benefit the servant as well as the master, be he European or Chinese.

10.—It is almost superfluous to remind Your Excellency of the large number of larcenies which have been committed by servants, or in collusion with servants, in the dwelling houses of Europeans and Chinese alike, during the last few months. Such occurrences would, in our opinion, be rendered far less frequent if the proposals set out in the next paragraph are given the effect of law.

11.—We respectfully beg that Your Excellency will initiate legislation on the following or similar lines:—

(a) Compulsory registration of all domestic servants.

(b) Compulsory photographing of all domestic servants.

(c) Compulsory taking out of registration certificates.

(d) Compulsory entries of charge of services on the registration certificates.

(e) All the other measures embodied in the draft Bill which formed an Appendix to the recent Report of the Private Chair and Jiriksha Coolies Commission.

The petitioners numbered about 270.

CHURCH MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Church Missionary Association was held on Thursday in the City Hall, His Excellency F. H. May, C.M.G., presiding. There was a large attendance.

The minutes of the last annual meeting having been read by the Rev. Mr. Johnson

His Excellency said he had much pleasure in introducing Bishop Ridley of Caledonia, who would presently give them some account of missionary work in that far distant land. He had just been reading a short account of the commencement of missionary enterprise in that quarter of the globe, and it was a very sterling little story. It appeared that in 1856 Captain Prober, commanding one of H. M. ships on that station, returned home and brought to the notice of the Church Missionary Society the spiritual destitution of the Indians living on the Pacific coast of British North America, and the result of his representations was that a young schoolmaster, a layman, was sent out to that region, and after much difficulty it became apparent in 1859 that very good results were ensuing from his work. The Society sent out various missionaries between that date and 1879, but owing to the difficulties in the matter of climate and the enormous territory to be dealt with it was apparent that some reorganisation of missionary work was desirable and some closer supervision; hence in 1879 the mission field was divided into three dioceses—Columbia, New Westminster, and Caledonia. The right reverend gentleman on his right (Bishop Ridley) thereupon, who had been in India for a long time and had suffered much in health from the trying climate, was made Bishop of Caledonia. He had been working there ever since, and he would now ask the right reverend gentleman to address the meeting.

The Right Rev. Bishop Ridley, who was received with applause, opened his address by alluding to his experiences in India, where, he said, he had lived long enough to see what a wonderful help was derived from the sympathy of those in authority. From the lips of some of our greatest soldiers and statesmen he had heard the sentiment expressed that the missionary influence in India was more beneficial for the country's welfare than all other influences put together. These words he had heard from among others Lord Lawrence and Sir Robert Montgomery. Alluding to Japan the Bishop said that he had seen in its educational system little to criticise and much to admire.

The Bishop then, in a few interesting remarks, told the audience of the great faithfulness of the converts in his own diocese many of whom had imperilled their lives and impoverished themselves for the building up of the Church of Christ.

The Bishop of Victoria then followed with a few remarks regarding the Missionary work in China, along lines already referred to in these columns, coupling them with advice to critics to go and see the work that was being done. His Lordship then formally proposed that the present committee be re-elected. This was seconded by the Rev. Mr. Markham, and carried unanimously.

His Excellency then addressed a few remarks to the meeting, endorsing the work of the missions, especially in the educational line which had come under his own personal observation. He then asked the Bishop of Caledonia to pronounce a final benediction, which brought the meeting to a close.

HONGKONG VOLUNTEER CONCERT.

A Hongkong Volunteer concert was held at the Theatre Royal on the 16th inst. and proved in every way a most enjoyable function. Mr. George Caldwell deserves the greatest thanks for his somewhat arduous duties behind the scenes, his assistance materially contributing towards making the function a success. Mr. H. A. Tozer, whose name appeared on the programme, through indisposition was unfortunately unable to sing. Upstairs was pretty well packed; a goodly number of people being below also. By kind permission of Lieut-Colonel W. S. Birdwood and officers, the band of the 110th Mahratta Light Infantry played selections at the intervals, opening the programme with "Love in Idleness." Mr. G. H. Edwards then sang "An April Birthday," receiving merited applause. Miss Murray Bain's "May Day" was well received; indeed, an encore was insisted on. Next followed a comic song "I have got something to be thankful for," by Bombardier Stephenson, who, in response to a call for another, also sang "What I've got I'll hold." Lieut. Geo. P. Lammert was very good with "Star of my Heart," an encore being called for. A violin solo, "Cavatina," by Mrs. A. Ough, was very sweet. Mr. P. W. Goldring next gave "Phyllis is my only joy." This was followed in turn by a selection from the *Rose of Persia* by the band.

After an interval, and after the band had played a selection from *The Country Girl*, the laughable farce *Ticklish Times*, by J. M. Morton, was given. The scene was a room in Bodkins's house, Weymouth, and the story briefly as follows:—Launcelot Griggs (Lieut. Northcote) was deputed to arrest Sir William Ramsay, a Jacobite leader (Corpl. Hays), who had been secretly married to Winifred (Mrs. Chichester). Winifred was a great friend of Mrs. Griggs (Mrs. Bunny), wife of Launcelot Griggs, and she asked her if she would pose as wife of Sir William Ramsay in order to effect his escape. On Sir William Ramsay being rescued, Mrs. Griggs did as she was asked, greatly to the consternation of Launcelot Griggs, who appeared on the scene. The farce was indeed very laughable, each of the characters being represented very creditably. The full cast was as follows:—

Sir William Ramsay	Corpl. Hays
Bodkins	Major Chapman
Launcelot Griggs	Lieut. Northcote
Jansen	Bom. Stephenson
1st Constable	Lieut. Danby
Mrs. Griggs	Mrs. Bunny
Winifred	Mrs. Chichester
Dot	Miss Bunny

The proceedings terminated shortly after eleven o'clock.

HONGKONG JOURNALISTS' ASSOCIATION.

The inaugural dinner of the newly formed Hongkong Journalists' Association took place on the 16th inst. at the Hongkong Hotel, all the members being present. The President, Mr. T. H. Reid (Editor of the *China Mail*), took the chair. When dinner had been disposed of and the toast of the King had been duly honoured, the chairman started the speech list, proposing the health of the Association.

After some introductory remarks, Mr. Reid said that he would like to say a little concerning the inauguration of this Association and the objects it has in view, thinking it just as well, at the outset of its career, to dispel some of the mistaken notions with regard to the Association. "In the first place," he said, "the idea is prevalent that we have banded ourselves together to make an onslaught on Hongkong society. As your President, I think I may say that such an idea never occurred to us. As I understand the objects of this Association, there is no intention on the part of the journalists of Hongkong to indulge in aggressive action against any class or individual in this community. We have joined ourselves together because we feel that we have common interests which can best be served by unity of action. We have formed this Association because we felt that we could achieve certain

objects which, as individuals, we have not yet achieved and are never likely to achieve. We contemplate certain reforms that will make for the consideration, comfort, and convenience of journalists and lighten their labour, while enabling them to confer benefits upon the public. We seek opportunities for self-improvement, opportunities for social intercourse, opportunities for combining all sections of our profession. We have a high regard for it, and it is our intention to endeavour to keep out of it those who would not be a credit to any profession. But while we have these objects in view, we mean to adopt a policy very much in favour at the present time. That is the policy of retaliation. It may be unorthodox Christianity, but it seems to me that very little can be gained in this life by turning the other cheek. If anyone hits us, we mean to hit back. We are not to be mistaken for bullies standing in a ring inviting a fight. But it may as well be known now as later that if any 'superior person' imagines that he can hit unfairly any of our fraternity he must bear the consequences. There is a tendency in certain places to sneer at the newspaper man as if he were a being of a peculiarly obnoxious nature. Now, I am not prepared to stand up for every member of our profession. There are some—and they have usually graduated in some other walk of life—who, having lost their own self-respect, have brought discredit upon their fellows. But taking the profession as it is represented in Hongkong to-day—by men who have worked on the staffs of the leading newspapers of England and the Colonies—I think I may fairly claim for it that it stands very high indeed. It never stood higher; and when I look back on twelve years of journalism in this Colony I feel that I can honestly congratulate my confrères on the position they now occupy, even with all its drawbacks and its inheritance of the sins of others. I appeal to you as journalists to maintain the credit of your profession. Do not allow yourselves to be made the catspaws of the petty cliques and jealous busybodies that are present in every community. Believe me, as one with a greater experience of life than most of you, and a longer experience of Hongkong than any of you, that you will gain more respect—the respect that is worth having—by pursuing an independent and honest course in your daily routine, whether it be in the humbler duties of chronicling the daily occurrences of the place, or in endeavouring to form public opinion. There are in this community—as there are in every community—people who are ever ready to take advantage of a newspaper to serve their own selfish ends. It is not always easy to see their object. Such persons may be counted among the enemies of the Press. On the other hand, there are in Hongkong some men in public life—and it is to be regretted that their number is not larger—who have accomplished much with the aid of the Press. With your help, they will be able to accomplish still greater reforms, and I hope that after each of you has spent twelve years in Hongkong you will be able to look back with a sense of satisfaction and be able to say that you have helped in your small way to the achievement of these successes." Mr. Reid went on to say that the changes in the status of the profession which have been witnessed in Hongkong are only a reproduction of what has been happening at home since the days when Thackeray portrayed Captain Shandon. People are beginning to recognise that journalism is no longer the last refuge of the incapable and the disreputable. In all walks of public life, journalists take a foremost place. But it is not because of their profession, nor in spite of it. In conclusion Mr. Reid said:—"It so happens that there have been many new arrivals during the past twelve months. We are pleased to greet the newcomers, and none perhaps more cordially than the members of the staff of Hongkong's new daily. The personal influence of the newcomers is already felt in our journalistic life. They have brightened us; they have made us all more alert, and we hope they will appreciate our efforts to keep ahead of them. Professional rivalry need not breed personal enmity. It is one of the best features of journalism that professional rivals have always found a common platform. Our Association does not aim at abolishing rivalry or to level down to dull uniformity; it will not

destroy individuality. But it seeks to reconcile, to give us opportunities for meeting and knowing each other, and to promote that good fellowship, helpfulness and mutual respect which are characteristics of our profession, and to deal authoritatively with certain questions that arise where our profession, as such, comes into contact with public life in this Colony of Hongkong."

Mr. E. A. Snewin (Editor of the *Hongkong Telegraph*), Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, replied on behalf of the Association, and alluded to the harmonious relations subsisting between the various journals of the Colony, in contrast to the state of affairs prevailing in some epochs of Hongkong history.

Mr. P. W. Sergeant (Editor of the *Hongkong Daily Press*) then proposed the health of the President and Chairman, voicing the regret felt in newspaper circles in Hongkong at the approaching departure of Mr. Reid after twelve years' and a half of service here.

Mr. Reid replied, and gave a few amusing reminiscences of some journalistic amenities in Hongkong in the old days.

Mr. Helme (*Daily Press*) proposed the health of the newcomers in Hongkong, coupled with the name of Mr. Douglas Story.

Mr. Story (Editor of the *South China Morning Post*) returned thanks, and stated how much the welcome extended to him and his colleagues had been appreciated. He dwelt, too, on the work awaiting the Association and the amount of good which it might be expected to do.

Mr. Donald (*China Mail*) proposed the toast of the visitor, M. César, a French journalist at present in Hongkong, who had been invited to attend the dinner. Mr. Mannington (*Hongkong Telegraph*) replied on his behalf.

After a short entertainment, Mr. Erskine (*Daily Press*) being at the piano and the Chairman himself being among the singers, a very successful evening came to an end a little after midnight.

NEW TERRITORY NOTES.

[FROM A CORRESPONDENT.]

16th January.

ARMED ROBBERIES.

With the approach of the Chinese New Year armed robberies are of frequent occurrence on both sides of the frontier line. The configuration of the country, bad roads, apathy of the people robbed, are all bars in the way of the police on the British side of the line, who do their best against difficulties. Two nights ago a village in Chinese territory, about a quarter of a mile from the Customs Bungalow at Shamohun, was raided by a robber gang, who broke into and looted five houses to the extent of \$400.

MISSION WORK.

The Rhenish Mission is making strenuous efforts in the cause of Christianity in and around Shamohun. Shamohun itself has nearly 50 converts, while in one village near Shamohun the majority of the people are converts, and bring their children to be baptised. The Rev. Mr. Gottschalk, from Hongkong, visits Shamohun regularly and holds divine service. The curious juxtaposition of the clean little mission house in Shamohun with the filthy abodes of the people around it, and the little band of converts droning out some old, well-known hymn tune in a strange tongue, is an experience to be remembered.

RAIN.

The recent rain out here has been an unmixed blessing to all who "toil and moil." The past months of dry weather had parched the land till the soil was of the consistency of cement. Now Nature and the farmers smile again.

The *Ostasiatische Lloyd* has a telegram dated Yokohama, 19th December:—The Privy Council met yesterday, the Mikado presiding. It has been resolved to return the last Russian Note to the S. Petersburg Government with the request to reconsider it. Official circles in Tokyo do not consider this a break of the relations with Russia, but on the contrary, as prompted by the desire to continue the negotiations on another basis. The final settlement of the crisis is therefore postponed for some weeks.

CANTON.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

Canton, 18th January.

ROBBERIES ENAGED.

Since the execution of Ao Chan, captain of the 3,000 robbers at Shai-bin, that district has been quiet. Three noted robbers have been captured in the Pun-yü territory just east of the city, and they are at present exposed in cages differing somewhat from the ordinary punishment-cages, in the Pun-yü magistrate's yamen—a sight for tourists, who do not, however, visit this prison so often as the more famous Namhoi prison.

DARING ATTEMPT AT PIRACY.

I have just had a talk with a friend who has come through what might have been a very unpleasant adventure in the S.W. of this province. He had been staying on the coast halfway to Kwongchow, and was returning to Canton on Friday. The usual mode of travelling throughout the delta and on all the waterways in the province is by passenger-boat—a large junk—towed by a steam-launch, of which craft there is a great number lying to the N. W. of Honam Island. These steam-launches usually carry a guard of from 15 to 20 men, armed to the teeth, and the passenger-boats too have a guard, and sometimes an ancient cannon or two. In the case I refer to, the boat had passed a few miles beyond Kongmoon, and was in a narrow part of the river, when, in the late watches of the night, it was attacked by a number of sampans, which glided out of the numerous small creeks flowing into the larger stream at this spot. The crews of the launch and passenger-boat felt strong enough to refuse to surrender and were attacked with a fusillade from modern weapons. For several hours the fight was kept up, and at last, finding they could make no impression on their would-be victims, the pirates withdrew. It is very rarely, I believe, that passenger-boats are strong enough to keep off pirates, so my informant had a fortunate escape. This bold attack so near to the port of Kongmoon shows well that the pirates are really more powerful than most foreigners imagine. The day will come when their destruction will become absolutely necessary to freedom of trade.

NEW YEAR PREPARATIONS.

With the approach of China New Year there is a great activity in the fire-cracker quarter. Millions of crackers are used annually at this season, of which many are imported. It is a period of great danger from fires, as may be imagined.

The toy-shops are very busily at work also. At New Year every respectable house has its little ornaments renewed, and the children have their little presents. Generally there is a good deal going on in the city at present, but money is very scarce in the Imperial coffers, and it is rumoured that another loan will have to be negotiated by the Viceroy.

PAKHOI.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

Pakhoi, 5th January.

A MUSICAL TREAT.

M. Léonce Flayelle, French Consul, treated the community to a musical *soirée* on the New Year's night in the rooms of the Consulate. The members of the foreign community were invited. The affair was a brilliant success, and a most enjoyable evening was passed. From the gate leading to the spacious buildings the path was splendidly lit by double rows of lanterns and coloured lamps, and so was the compound around.

One of the rooms had been converted into a little theatre, the stage being raised about two feet from the floor, and the room throughout was decorated with bunting and ferns. The performance commenced at half-past eight before an audience of over forty ladies and gentlemen. After the first part of the programme had been gone through supper was provided, and it was nearly midnight when the performance came to a close.

The following was the programme:—

PART I.

Piano..... "Imitation à la Valse" (Weber).
 Mesdames L. FLAYELLE and J. C. JOHNSTON.
 Song..... "Beloved, it is Morn."
 Mr. J. C. JOHNSTON.
 Song..... "The Hard Dell."
 Mr. E. BULBROOK.
 Solo..... Cornet & piston "Variations."
 Mr. F. R. S. DA CRUZ.
 Solo..... "The Rose of Tralee."
 Mr. R. HENKEL.
 A Display of Strength.

Mr. G. E. BELL.
 Song..... "O Dry those Tears."
 Mrs. J. C. JOHNSTON.
 Song..... "Warner's Parting."
 Mr. F. H. BELL.
 Piano..... "Impromptu de Chopin."
 Madame L. FLAYELLE.
 Song..... "Selection from *The Mikado*."
 Mr. THOMAS LOUREIRO.
 Chorus..... "Plantation Songs."
 Mrs. JOHNSTON, Messrs. JOHNSTON, F. H. BELL,
 LOUREIRO, HENKEL, CRUZ, DRAYSON,
 BULBROOK, and WILLIAMS.

PART II.

Song..... "The White Squall."
 Mr. V. DRAYSON.
 Duo..... "Two Little Chicks."
 Mrs. and Mr. JOHNSTON.
 Violin Solo..... "Selected."
 Mr. N. A. SEQUEIRA.
 Song..... "Love's Coronation."
 Mr. J. C. JOHNSTON.
 Piano..... "Romance"..... Ch. Lefebvre.
 Madame FLAYELLE.
 Song..... "The Old Brigade."
 Mr. F. H. BELL.
 Musical Sketch.
 Messrs. T. LOUREIRO and A. WILLIAMS.
 Chorus..... "Good Night."
 Mrs. JOHNSTON, Messrs. JOHNSTON, F. H. BELL,
 LOUREIRO, HENKEL, CRUZ, DRAYSON,
 BULBROOK, and WILLIAMS.

Pakhoi, 11th January.

FOOTBALL—"RINALDO" V. PAKHOI

Availing himself of the presence of H.B.M.S. *Rinaldo* in this port, Dr. Pope, R.N., as Hon. Secretary of the *Rinaldo's* Football Club, arranged a football match—the first of the kind in Pakhoi—between his team and a scratch team collected amongst the residents. The match came off on Saturday last, before a large attendance of spectators, on the piece of ground near the British Consulate. It resulted in an easy victory for the *Rinaldo's* team, who played a good game. Twice only the *Rinaldo's* goal was in danger. Hamington—kindly lent from the opposite side to complete the Pakhoi team—played well, but Pakhoi's efforts proved of little or no avail before the masterly play of the naval team. When time was called, the result was 6 to nil. This, I understand, was the 35th victory of the *Rinaldo's* team during their commission in the China Station. The following were the teams:—

Rinaldo.—Fuller, goal; Burgen, Beaumont, backs; Foley, Galloway, Small, half-backs; Reed, Wyatt, Reid, Jamieson, Jarvis, forwards.
 Pakhoi.—Bell, (G.E.) goal; Jensen, Grohmann, backs; Loureiro, Hamington, Williams, half-backs; Bell (F.H.), Blanchett, Drayson, Durlach, Wicks, forwards.
 Dr. Pope, R.N., acted as referee.

NAVAL.

H.B.M.S. *Rinaldo* left for Hongkong, via Hoihow, on the 10th inst.

PRELITICAL VISIT.

The Right Reverend Bishop Hoare, Bishop of Victoria, came on board the *Rinaldo* to visit this now important part of his diocese. During his stay here he inspected the different branches of the Church Missionary Society in the neighbourhood, including Limchow. He left again in the man-of-war for Hongkong on the 10th inst.

BRIGANDS AND PIRATES.

It is reported that the brigands near Yamchow are as active as ever. The principal marts are almost closed, as business is impossible; travellers are afraid to attempt long journeys to bring their produce to the markets. A village called Na-lai was set ablaze by the freebooters, after plundering, last week.

On the night of the 6th instant a junk laden with bricks and tiles, while at anchor in the harbour, opposite the Custom House, was

quietly boarded by a piratical crew, who compelled the two men on board to keep quiet while they set sail for the sea, and on reaching Kow-tuck, after landing the two junkmen, they left and have not since been heard of.

On the 8th inst. two numbered lighters left here for Yamchow with cargo and a number of passengers. After a few hours' sailing, and in broad daylight, one of the lighters—No. 25—was attacked by a pirate junk, a sailor being shot. The pirates, while looting the valuables on board, saw the smoke of an approaching steamer (the gunboat *Heinhung* from Canton), which made them desist; by that time the crew's and passengers' luggage was removed. No cargo was taken away.

A short time ago, the guard-junk No. 3 met a fleet of pirates in the entrance of Loongmoon; a battle ensued and continued until the dark without either of the parties giving in. Two killed and a few wounded were recorded on the guard-junk.

CORRESPONDENCE

THE FISCAL QUESTION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 15th January.

SIR.—I am disappointed that a weightier lance than mine has not taken up the challenge thrown out by your correspondent "X" who writes so glibly of the benefits of Free Trade. In the absence of a better, I beg to come forward with an expression of views which are contrary to those which he has enounced and which, I am sure, will meet with as much if not more approbation in the minds of Colonial Britishers than anything that has been written by his Radical pen. It is said of the serpent that he fascinates the bird before she falls into his jaws. In the same way "X" would fascinate us into laxity and collapse by the speciousness of his arguments, the false lustre of his illustrations. What on earth have figures got to do with us who are in actual contact with hard facts, truths the most convincing, asseverations that require no more confirmation than our daily life brings us face to face with.

The believers in Cobden and his school of 50 years ago are to be found equally as much in the ranks of those who believe in Fiscal Reform as in those that advocate Free Trade. But it remains to the men who move with the times at once to admire the methods of the statesmen of half a century ago, to ponder on the new methods which our enlarged Empire demands the adoption of, and to deduce the causes of our receding pre-eminence.

To take our Colony as a basis of argument presumes a weakness of premises that a perusal of "X's" views solidifies. It is to take Hongkong as a basis on which to build a superstructure of such an overwhelming fabric of false issues as would smother the original base in ruins as great as those of Tyre or Sidon. What do we find in Hongkong? What but an inundation of foreign competition that approaches every day nearer and more near a predominance. Hongkong is not different from our other colonies. It is a safeguard for commerce. It is central. It commands respect of European and Asiatic alike. So do all our colonies and possessions. Then what do we find distinctive in Hongkong as apart from our other great places that fly the British Flag? Alas! here, as elsewhere in the East at any rate, we find that after the expenditure of millions of British pounds and thousands of British lives, years upon years of devoted service on the part of our Civil Service and our commercial community, the alien, the foreigner, may step in with impunity and take up in the race a position with ourselves which he is ever so much more capable of advantaging at the winning post, considering the fact that he enters fresh half-way round the course against our own entrants that have run the entire distance from the fall of the flag.

Hongkong does not in any way differ from other British Possessions in the East. Here you find that while the Britisher is still tending the harvest which he should reap by reason of his country's prowess the alien enters his fields

by night and cuts off the heads of his grain not yet grown to full fructification. The Britisher is left with the stubble wherewith to make his bed. In the wake of the Anglo-Saxon pioneer come all sorts and conditions of men. The Greek, useless in his own country, plucks the ears of our harvests as he walks through our blood-bespilled fields. The Italian, the Belgian, the Jew, the German more than all, walk on the easy path that Britain has cut out for her children; and now, forsooth, the American, with his lord-of-all-creation raft, follows in the footsteps of his European fellow-interlopers and with them undersells the British labour other than which there should be nothing in a British colony.

Despite the rapid reasonings of "X," there is no doubt about the lucidity of the logic that says decisively foreign shipping is making inroads on our own. Hongkong is a British port and should be maintained as such. At Kiaoohau, at Kwangchowwan, at Dalny, at Manila, vast interests are being built up which are capable in the ultimate issue of disintegrating the trade of our island. If we stand idly by and see that come about we shall be as criminally negligent as any man who ever stood behind the moon-lighter and failed to deflect as he might have done the death-dealing shotgun of the veriest fanatic who ever lay behind an Irish hedge in wait for his landlord. "X" says in effect that the increase of German shipping in our port is nothing to be alarmed about. It was J. A. Froude who said that "when things are going well with Englishmen they never look beyond the moment." It is true!

It is only when Englishmen shall have taken to heart the lesson which they so blindly ignore and which not a single colony of theirs does not iterate and reiterate through the whole course of its history—that the acquisition of new fields of colonisation must not mean that foreigners are to reap the benefits for which our country fought and shed its blood; that the half-caste question is only to be solved by an adequate payment for Englishmen's services in whatever spheres of commerce or activity they may enter into; that the European foreigner and the American foreigner look upon our easy acceptance of their emigration into and competition in our own lands with contumely and contempt; that the people of the British Empire will arrive at a true sense of their own position as viewed in the eyes of the world and will save themselves from compact with a rock on which, otherwise, the Empire will inevitably perish.

"X" quotes a lot of authorities on the Imperial side of the Fiscal Question. I believe that there are prophets greater than these. When that Britain of ours went mad with the "Trade Wind of prosperity" which spread over our islands after the adoption of Free Trade there were those who refused to be carried along with the flood-tide. I cannot do better, I think, than to quote a passage from Froude's *Life of Beaconsfield* in conclusion. Speaking of the same period, he says:—

"Our countrymen of the last generation had confidence in themselves. They were advancing by leaps and bounds, and the advance was to continue for ever. Carlyle told them that their 'unexampled prosperity' was in itself no such beautiful thing, and was perhaps due to special circumstances which would not continue. Carlyle was laughed at as a pessimist. Yet as time goes on a suspicion does begin to be felt that both he and Disraeli were not as wrong as was supposed. The anticipated fall in wheat, though long delayed, has come at last; at last the land is falling out of cultivation, and the rents go back once more, and the labourers have lost their extra shillings. The English farmer is swamped at last under the competition of the outer world, and the peasantry, who were the manhood of the country, are shrinking in numbers. The other nations, who were to have opened their ports after our example, have preferred to keep them closed to protect their own manufactures and supply their own necessities. Chimneys still smoke and engines clank, and the volume of our foreign trade does not diminish, but if the volume is maintained the profits fall, and our articles must be produced cheaper if we are to hold our ground."—Young, etc.,

CHAMBERLAINITE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS"

Hongkong, 15th January.

SIR,—The article by "X" gives reasons for continuing our free trade policy, and in that respect is different to the platitudes and vague assertions of what might happen if we make fiscal changes, which the supporters of free trade generally bring forward as arguments. Consequently those who hold different opinions ought not to allow "X's" statements to go unchallenged. Taking the article *serialim*, we are asked the question, "How will the new policy affect this Colony?" and "X" asserts that every article of food is imported and would have to be taxed, and very little of it comes from British sources.

It is precisely for such reason that the tax is proposed. Vegetables, dairy produce, fresh meat, and fish, can be produced within the boundaries of the Colony. Of the balance of our requirements there is very little that the British dominions cannot supply. Canada could send us flour and tinned fish; Rangoon, rice; Australia, wine and tinned meats. Such articles as champagne, olives, tobacco, &c., are in the nature of luxuries, and could bear a moderate tax.

"X's" next sentence simply goes to prove that the blessings of free trade have not kept the price of foodstuffs low here: the price of local produce has increased owing to sudden greater demand; and imported goods are dearer, due to the vagaries of exchange. If instead of purchasing the produce of foreign countries we transferred our custom to British dominions there would still be no duty, so the argument of further enhanced cost of living falls to the ground; while local produce will continue to be subject to local conditions and will vary in price accordingly, duty or no duty.

We must not forget that an addition to the revenue of the Colony would not be unappreciated, and would be applied to ameliorate some of the conditions of living here, say a better water supply, reduced rates, or provision of scholastic facilities for our children.

We are told that Hongkong is not a manufacturing centre. This assertion is not quite correct; there are quite a few manufactories of various kinds in the Colony, and would be more were it not for free trade. We have the finest labour market in the world at our doors, the natives of the neighbouring provinces are acknowledged to be born mechanics and Canton is the Birmingham of the Far East. Let us, however, admit that "X" may be right and that Hongkong is not a manufacturing centre. I will now proceed to show why it has little chance of becoming such.

The Eastern Manufacturing Co., Wanchai, after enjoying a number of prosperous years found its business declining mainly owing to Japanese competition. When the manufacture of clocks in the latter country was in its infancy duty was imposed upon imported ones, and as the factories increased their output and required no further fostering, were the duties removed? No, they were raised to the point of prohibition, and our local factory not only lost the Japanese market, but the surplus production of Japan overflows into the Chinese market, and the E.M. Co.'s occupation is gone. The machinery was dismantled and scattered last month, and a large number of specially-trained workmen thrown out of employment. It seems to me that it would have been better to have kept this industry in our midst even if the price of clocks went up half-a-dollar.

The Sugar Refineries are mentioned as probable sufferers if a tax be imposed on the raw material, and "not one ounce of it comes from British soil." More shame for free trade. Why are the British West Indies in a chronic state of bankruptcy—once the brightest jewels in the British Crown? The less that free-traders say about sugar the better, and I think that shareholders in the C.S.R. have food for thought if they contemplate what Japan has done for them. But is it proposed to tax raw materials at all? Most protected countries admit raw materials free or nearly so, if they are of such a nature as they cannot produce themselves, and any duty Britain would impose would not handicap manufactures to any extent.

We now come to shipping. Because British shipping is not falling off we are to rest and be thankful. Locally there has been an increase of tonnage entering and leaving the port, but the number of British vessels has decreased by 10! whilst foreigners have increased by leaps and bounds. This in a British Colony! A few large lines add some leviathans to their fleet, while the smaller vessels employing a relatively larger number of men and spreading the flag, are crowded out by their subsidised rivals.

There is a small steamer trading between this island and the neighbouring French colonies. Formerly a British naval vessel, she was purchased by a Chinaman. According to British law she had to carry certificated captain, mate, and engineer; not necessarily British, mind you. This represented about \$1,000 per month, and the ship was not in a position to earn so much and leave a profit for the owner, so he placed her under the French flag. I am not competent to state what the French law is, but this I do know. That vessel left Hongkong not once but several times, and may be doing so regularly yet, without a single British officer, and enjoys all the privileges of a British boat in Hongkong waters. Thus we handicap our own nationals.

Why should the O. & O. boats be prevented from taking an ounce of cargo between Honolulu and San Francisco, while the German or any other mail can carry all they can load between the British ports en route to Europe? Mr. "X" admits that the temptation to retaliate is great, and nervously asks, "Would the foreign nations meekly submit?"

Little Englanders are advised to meekly submit and to offer the other cheek when they receive a slap. We have submitted long enough. So soon as foreign nations see that we intend to fight them with their own weapons there will be no meek submission on their part, but there will be an awakening to the fact that John Bull has stirred, and we will get something like fair treatment.

That the Americans, some of them, would like to make the Philippines free, and therefore more prosperous, I gladly concede. I do not believe in Customs duties in any shape providing free trade is universal; duties only hamper commerce; but if all the rest of the world differs from us in such opinions after over half-a-century of practical application of our ideas, we are either sublimely wise or intensely pig-headed. Which is it?

We are treated to a lot of figures to show that the volume of British trade is really on the increase, though nothing near the extent of that of protected countries. Considering that British population is also on the increase, and according to "X's" figures our exports are mostly to British Colonies and dependencies, it simply means that we exploit new countries and naturally get a fair share of business from our sons who spend their energies and blood, and the home taxpayer, who finances the exploitation gets his little bit along with the various other gentlemen from Poland and Hamburg, Trieste, and all the world over.

I contest the assertion that the working man is better off in Great Britain than in other countries. "X" asks, "Will anyone seriously contend that the lot of the labourer and the artisan in any of the great protected countries, Germany, the United States or France, is preferable to that of the same class in England?"

In Germany, from my own observation, I noticed that the working man was really very well off indeed; certainly he does not get as high wages as his English confrère, but living is cheaper in spite of protection, education is cheap or free, house-rent lower. Take Essex as a working-man's town and compare it with Leeds or Newcastle, and then say who is the better off.

I cannot say as much for the French artisan; his taxes are higher, and his temperament different, and his Government not so paternal. But the American working man is incomparably better off than the British. Despite the higher prices of everything he can save as much per week as the Englishman earns, his house is fitted with bathroom with hot and cold water, he can take a trip to Europe now and then. What working-man at home can do that?

There is no reason why the 290 millions of foreign foodstuffs should not be produced within the limits of the British Empire. The unanimity of all the protectionist countries that it would be disastrous to Great Britain to adopt the same policy as themselves shows their kind and neighbourly feeling, but I "hae ma doots" about their disinterestedness.—Yours, &c.

W. G. WINTERBURN.

Hongkong, 15th January.

SIR,—As I think that "X's" statement appearing in the *Daily Press* of the 14th inst. might have a tendency to cause erroneous voting at the City Hall to-morrow (Saturday) afternoon, I would like to point out that the Hongkong standpoints taken up by "X" is calculated to mislead residents who have the interests of the British Empire more at heart than the puny, so to speak, interests of Hongkong. When Britain ruled the markets of the world things were very different, and, as an example of what protection can do towards empire building, take the United States, which, certainly, has made the most rapid progress in developing virgin soil in history. England, with her colonies having vast tracts of virgin country, is in precisely the same position; she has, moreover, strong rivals with more developed lands on very side. I consider the integrity of the British Empire at stake, for if England does not give preference to Canadian grain—and Canada is Britain's most promising colony—what inducement is there for Canada, from a political standpoint, to remain part of the British empire? With the new railway a belt of virgin soil some 300 miles in width will be opened up, and population in tens of thousands are flocking to the country to take up free grants or other now cheap lands. The emigration from Britain, too, is very great. Are we, or are we not to protect our colonists in their efforts to extend the influence of The Nation? South Africa and Australia may be regarded in the same light. Let preference be extended to colonial produce offered at the market price. When the colonies are older we can open the door again.—Yours, etc.

"Y."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 16th January.

SIR,—I have read with great interest the replies which my hastily-penned contribution on the Fiscal Question has evoked, but I cannot say that I am yet persuaded that Mr. Chamberlain's proposals, if adopted, would be advantageous economically or politically to the British Empire. The vote of the British community having been taken on the question, this reply must, I suppose, be taken as ending the discussion. Otherwise I should be interested to hear from "Chamberlainite" why my pen should be regarded by him as "Radical." Is he unaware of the fact that all the men of the best experience in the late Conservative Cabinet are inflexible opponents of the late Colonial Secretary's enterprise? Every statesman now alive who has occupied the position of Chancellor of the Exchequer in England—and two of them have presided over the Board of Trade—the positions in which the best experience is gained for forming opinions on fiscal changes—emphatically denounces Mr. Chamberlain's proposals as inimical to the best interests of the Empire. And who is Mr. Chamberlain that he should be regarded as an infallible guide in these matters? Mr. Chamberlain has represented in his time every shade of political opinion, and may describe a complete circle before his career is ended. No man in the Empire has declaimed more vehemently than himself against the policy he is now seeking to dictate to the nation.

If I conveyed to "Chamberlainite" that I took our Colony as "a basis of argument on which to build a superstructure of an overwhelming fabric of false issues," I very much regret it. While I am not convinced that the condition of our Colony would benefit by Mr. Chamberlain's proposals, I would wish to deprecate any attempt to consider the general question entirely from the parochial point of view. Parenthetically, I would, however, by way of replying to "Chamberlainite," remind him that Hongkong has not been

made what it is entirely by the expenditure of British pounds; if it were possible to make a computation, it would be found that a great many of the wicked aliens have contributed handsomely to the development of Hongkong as a commercial centre. A study of the directorates of local companies affords some indication of that fact.

But let us return to the main question. Mr. Winterburn, when dealing with the question from the Imperial rather than parochial point of view, says:—

"We are treated to a lot of figures to show that the volume of British trade is really on the increase, though nothing near the extent of that of protected countries. Considering that British population is also on the increase, and according to 'X.'s figures our exports are mostly to British Colonies and dependencies, it simply means that we exploit new countries and naturally get a fair share of business from our sons who spend their energies and blood, and the home taxpayer, who finances the exploitation, gets his little bit along with the various other gentlemen from Poland and Hamburg, Trieste, and all the world over."

I gave no figures to show that our exports are mostly to British Colonies and dependencies. The Colonies in fact, take less than half of our exports. I cannot, however, see the point of Mr. Winterburn's remarks. Even if I had said that our exports were mostly to British Colonies and dependencies it would not "simply mean that we exploit new countries and naturally get a fair share of business." Mr. Winterburn is evidently unaware that our export trade to countries like Germany, Russia and the United States is not yet extinguished but flourishing. Germany in 1902 bought from us exports amounting in value to £33,000,000 sterling—nearly four millions more than she did ten years ago; Russia bought from us five millions more than she did in 1892; the United States three millions more; Belgium about the same; France a million more. The United States is our largest customer (33 millions sterling); Germany and India are practically bracketed second (33 millions sterling); France third (22 millions); Australia fourth (21 millions). We cannot afford to injure our trade with foreign countries.

"Considering that the British population is on the increase." Yes; and what do we find? Why this: that in 1854, when the population was estimated at 27,700,000, the general trade (merchandise) of the country was £9 14s 6d. per head; in 1902, when we had an estimated population of 41,916,212, we had a trade which worked out at £20 18s. 4d. per head! Is that fact not sufficient to make any man pause before he attempts to upset a fiscal policy which has encouraged such results?

Great stress is laid in any local discussion of the question on the results to British shipping of foreign competition. Unfortunately, I cannot put my hand on any statistics which give an idea of the growth of our total tonnage, but it is enormous. Our shipbuilding yards, moreover, launched more merchant and other vessels (not warships) in the three years 1900-2 than in any previous years. And as for the profits of shipowners, though they may not have been princely, they have certainly been better than those of their chief rivals—the German companies. The dividend of the Hamburg-American line was 10 per cent. in 1900, 6 per cent. in 1901, and in 1902 it was 4½ per cent. The North-German Lloyd dividend in 1900 was 8½ per cent., in 1901 6 per cent., and in 1902 it was nil. In 1900 the Hansa Line paid a dividend of 14 per cent., in 1901 it was 8 per cent., and in 1902 it was 6 per cent. Then, last, let us take the Hamburg-South America Steam Shipping Company. In 1900 the dividend was 10 per cent., in 1901 4 per cent., and in 1902 it was again nil.

I am not competent to judge as between the condition of the workman in Essen and his colleague in Leeds or Newcastle, as Mr. Winterburn recommends, nor is there any necessity for an enquiry so circumscribed; the important thing to know is the condition of the people in Germany and England as a whole. It certainly cannot be said that the German official reports on industrial conditions in Germany lend any support to Mr. Winterburn's view.

Mr. Winterburn says there is no reason why the 290 millions of foodstuffs now imported into the United Kingdom from foreign countries should not be produced within the limits of the British Empire. Very likely; but I judge from the available statistics that if only our colonies will produce more the United Kingdom is ready to receive it. Canada is "the granary of the Empire," and I see we took three million more cwt. of wheat in grain from her in 1902 than we received in 1901. The import from India and Australia has also been increasing in recent years, while that from Russia and the Argentine has been diminishing. From the United States the increase was not greater than that from Canada.

Canada's export of foodstuffs to the United Kingdom will, I doubt not, continue to grow as the extensive areas of forest land are brought under cultivation. Every facility, and I may even say temptation, is offered to Britishers to go there and settle; but the growth of agriculture in the colonies must be slow, and it is very doubtful whether it would be appreciably hastened by a duty against foreign corn.

It is desired to help the Colonies to give us a lot we need, it seems to me that it could be more satisfactorily and far more cheaply done by paying subsidies upon Colonial produce delivered. The policy of Mr. Chamberlain would commit us to the taxation of the whole of our 462 millions of imports; and when we bear in mind that 400 millions of that sum are spent on foodstuffs and raw materials, we can hardly blind ourselves to the inevitable consequences that the cost of production of all the commodities which the United Kingdom has for consumption as well as for export would be enhanced and her trade in markets where she has long held her own would be seriously endangered. Mr. W. H. Mallock has compared the wealth of the United Kingdom to an Eiffel tower, which rises on four enormous legs; but though the tower is in one sense a purely British creation, one of its four legs only rests upon British soil. "One of them straddles across the Atlantic, and finds its footing in America; another in Europe and Asia; and another is buoyed up by a multitude of ships at sea."

That consideration I will leave with my opponents, together with this final submission:—our danger is twofold. By erecting tariff walls we may reduce our imports from foreign countries long before our Colonies are able to meet our requirements. If we suffer no reduction in our imports, then obviously they can only be sold at an increased cost to the consumer. That means that the cost of labour and all the products of labour must naturally increase correspondingly, and I submit that the result must be a diminished export trade, a declining carrying trade, and increasing distress at home.

Therefore, I say that if home-keeping youths have "homely wits" they will be well advised to preserve them.—Yours truly,

X.

JAPANESE MARKETS AND HONGKONG SUGAR.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Japanese Consulate,
Hongkong, 16th January.

SIR,—In the leading article of your to-day's issue, a mention was made about Japan markets being closed against the refined sugar of Hongkong by prohibitive tariffs, and as I consider this statement is apt to give one rather an erroneous impression of the real fact, I request you to spare your valuable space for this letter.

The import duties in Japan on sugar according to the existing tariffs which came into force on 1st January 1899, are as follows:—

Up to No. 14 Dutch standard, 5 per cent. *ad val.* or 0.204 yen per picul.

From No. 15 to 20, 10 per cent. *ad val.* or 0.748 yen per picul.

Upward No. 20, 10 per cent. *ad val.* or 0.27 yen per picul.

Apart from the import duty, the consumption tax is equally payable by imported sugar as well as by home products. Thus the advantage derived by the Japanese sugar refiners under the existing tariffs is limited to the difference of 5 per cent. between the import duty on raw sugar and that on refined. Furthermore, this discrimination had originally been

aimed not against the free Hongkong sugar but against the bounty-fed Continental sugar with which Japan's markets had been "dumped" for some time past.

In spite of the difference in the import duty mentioned above, during the year 1902 as much as five and a half million yens' worth of refined sugar was imported into Japan from Hongkong and other places.

I trust I have already given sufficient reasons to be able to claim that so far as sugar tariffs of Japan are concerned, they are not "prohibitive," though they are, no doubt, to some extent "preferential."—Yours, etc.,

M. SANICHI NOMA,
Consul for Japan.

THE AMOY C.S.P. AND THE RIOT.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
Hongkong, 16th January.

SIR,—With reference to your article in to-day's paper on the Amoy Riot I should like to point out that the general opinion of the people who were present during the riot was that the Captain Superintendent, who had a most difficult task to perform, carried it out in an exceedingly able manner.

EYE WITNESS.

[The article in question was quoted from the *Shanghai Mercury*, as stated by us in publishing it on Saturday. We expressed no opinion.—ED. D.P.]

THE FISCAL QUESTION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 2th January.

SIR,—I notice from the columns of your paper that the question of the desirability of free imports from foreign countries is being vigorously discussed by many of your correspondents. May I venture to express the hope that those gentlemen, and any others who are willing to take part, will be kind enough to communicate with me, with a view to a debate on the subject being started under the auspices of the Hongkong Odd Volumes Society? This question is undoubtedly one of the most momentous ones of the hour, and a public discussion of it would be of considerable value, because it would help to focus attention on the principal arguments which can be urged on both sides.—Yours, etc.,

H. E. POLLOCK.

Hon. Sec.

Hongkong Odd Volumes Society

CHINA PROVIDENT LOAN AND MORTGAGE CO., LD.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The seventh ordinary general meeting of shareholders in this Company was held at the offices of the general managers, Messrs. Shawan, Tones & Co., on the 16th inst. Those present were—Mr. C. A. Tones (chairman), Dr. J. Noble, Messrs. J. S. Van Buren, Chow Hing Kee, and J. H. Lewis (Consulting Committee), A. Babington, E. Owen, F. Paget Hett, W. R. Robertson, G. M. Bain, E. H. Sharp, Terry, McGubbin, Capt. Evans, Messrs. Fung Wa Chun, Si Un, and G. Somerville (secretary).

The notice convening the meeting was read.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, the report and accounts having been in your hands for some time we will, with your permission, follow the usual custom and take them as read. There is nothing in the accounts that calls for very special mention. You will see, the loans on the provident system have increased by \$153,000 odd, which is satisfactory, as our aim is to get as much capital out on these loans as possible. Charges account is slightly higher, having been increased by an expense for some plans of a property which we, at one time, contemplated building upon, but which was afterwards sold in a block. The other amounts in the accounts all explain themselves and require no comment. At the beginning of the year it was a little difficult to lend on satisfactory security, the property market being very lifeless. For some months we had not quite so much money out on loans as we might have had, but during the latter part of the year we have had a better demand and placed considerable amounts on

good properties. Our loans are all quite satisfactory, and we are again able to report freedom from bad debts. Before moving the adoption of the report and accounts, I shall be pleased to answer any questions. I must explain that, through some unaccountable error in printing the proof, the report was sent out without proper supervision and before an error was detected. The name of Dr. Noble, who had been invited to join the Consulting Committee, was, by some unaccountable means, left out of the report. Proper apology has been made to him, and the same is due to the shareholders. I cannot explain how it happened. More attention was paid perhaps to the figures in the accounts than to the wording of the report.

There were no questions.

The CHAIRMAN proposed, Mr. MURRAY BAIN seconded, and it was agreed that the report and accounts be adopted.

On the motion of Mr. F. PAGET HEIT, seconded by Mr. TERRY, Messrs. J. S. Van Buren, Chow Hing Kee, Chau Tung Shang, J. H. Lewis, and Dr. Noble were re-elected to the Consulting Committee.

On the motion of Mr. J. H. LEWIS, seconded by Mr. FUNG WA CHUN, Messrs. A. O'D. Gourdin and W. H. Potts were re-elected auditors.

The CHAIRMAN.—That is all the business, gentlemen. Dividend warrants will be ready on Monday.

KOWLOON LAND & BUILDING CO., LD.

FIFTEENTH ORDINARY MEETING.

The fifteenth ordinary meeting of shareholders in this Company was held at the Company's offices, Victoria Buildings, at noon, on the 20th inst. for the purpose of receiving the report of the directors together with statement of accounts for the year ending 31st December, 1903. There were present:—Messrs. T. H. Reid (chairman), and W. H. Gaskell (directors), J. R. Michael, T. Skinner, E. B. Shepherd, M. S. Northcote, S. J. Michael, and A. Shelton Hooper (secretary).

After the notice convening the meeting had been read the CHAIRMAN said:—Gentlemen, with your permission, we will take the report and accounts as read. I am glad to be able to say that the steady progress of the company still continues, the net profits for the past year being over \$800 more than those of the previous year. This is all the more satisfactory when we bear in mind that the exterior of Knutsford Terrace has been done up thoroughly, a water main laid, and each house provided with a separate meter, and the total cost paid for and written off. The whole of the houses are let satisfactorily, and there is no reason to anticipate any diminution of the rent roll. I have nothing further to add, but I shall be pleased to answer any questions.

There being no questions the CHAIRMAN proposed and Mr. J. R. MICHAEL seconded, that the report and accounts as presented be adopted and passed.—Carried.

Mr. SKINNER proposed the confirmation of the appointment of Messrs. W. H. Gaskell and T. F. Hough on the Board of Directors in place of Messrs. J. H. Cox and E. Jones Hughes. Mr. S. J. MICHAEL seconded, and the motion was carried.

Mr. J. R. MICHAEL—I should like to make a remark, Mr. Chairman. I find that the Directors' fees are only \$150 which, I think, is a very small amount for their trouble. I wish the Company would consider the advisability of increasing that amount, either at an extraordinary meeting or any other suitable time. I am sure they deserve more.

The CHAIRMAN—I think we had better proceed to the next business first.

Mr. J. R. MICHAEL proposed and Mr. E. B. SHEPHERD seconded that Messrs. W. H. Gaskell and T. F. Hough be re-elected to the directorate.

Mr. SKINNER proposed, Mr. S. J. MICHAEL seconded, and it was agreed, that Messrs. C. W. May and T. Arnold be re-elected auditors.

The CHAIRMAN—I may say that the directors are very pleased to have the suggestion from Mr. Michael with regard to their remuneration. The matter has been considered informally and possibly it may be brought

before the shareholders at a subsequent meeting.

The CHAIRMAN thanked shareholders for their attendance, and announced that dividend warrants would be ready to-morrow.

That was all the business.

The following is the report:—

The balance of profit and loss account for the year, after writing off all charges and expenses amounted to \$16,436.55. The directors, therefore, recommend that a dividend of \$2.60 per share be paid, which after writing off the directors' and auditors' fees, will leave a balance of \$636.55 to be carried forward to credit of a new profit and loss account.

DIRECTORS.

Messrs. J. H. Cox and E. Jones Hughes having resigned, Messrs. W. H. Gaskell and T. F. Hough have been appointed in their stead, and this now requires confirmation.

Messrs. W. H. Gaskell and T. F. Hough retire by rotation, but offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITORS.

In the absence of Mr. J. C. Peter, the accounts have been audited by Mr. C. W. May in conjunction with Mr. Thos. Arnold, who now retire, but offer themselves for re-election.

J. N. GOCSMANN,
Chairman.

The accounts are as follows:—

BALANCE-SHEET, 31st December, 1903.	
LIABILITIES.	
Paid-up capital	\$ 180,000.00
Accounts payable	425.17
Dividends outstanding	323.65
Balance of profit and loss account	16,436.55
	\$197,185.37
ASSETS.	
Cash	\$ 12,993.41
Cost of property	182,032.17
Accounts receivable	2,159.79
	\$197,185.37

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Dr.		\$	c.
To charges		341.35	
To Crown rent		786.00	
To fire insurance		527.18	
To repairs		4,511.37	
To commission to agents		1,527.40	
To balance to be appropriated as follows:—			
Directors' fees		\$150.00	
Auditors' fees		50.00	
Dividend of \$2.60 per share		15,690.00	
To be carried to new profit and loss account		636.55	
		16,436.55	
		\$24,129.85	

Cr.		\$	c.
By balance brought forward		1,032.37	
By Rent		22,953.75	
By interest		131.73	
By Scrip fees		12.00	
		\$24,129.85	

HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT AND AGENCY COMPANY, LD.

The following is the fifteenth report of the board of directors to the ordinary meeting of shareholders, to be held at the company's offices, Victoria Buildings, at noon on Wednesday, the 27th January:—

The net profits for the year ending 31st December, 1903, including \$51,707.26 balance brought forward from last account, after paying all charges, amount to \$437,470.23. From this amount an interim dividend of \$6 per share has already been paid. After transferring \$250,000 from equalisation of dividend fund to profit and loss account it is now proposed to pay a final dividend of \$6 per share, maintaining the usual dividend of 12 per cent. per annum on the capital, and after writing off directors' and auditors' fees there remains a balance of \$51,966.63 to be carried forward to the credit of a new profit and loss account.

DIRECTORS.

Mr. D. M. Moses having resigned his seat, Mr. E. Shellim was invited to join the board in his place, and this appointment now requires confirmation.

Messrs. A. J. Raymond and J. H. Lewis now retire by rotation, but offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITORS.

In the absence of Mr. J. C. Peter, the accounts have been audited by Mr. T. Arnold in conjunction with Mr. C. W. May, who now retire but offer themselves for re-election.

The accounts are as follows:—
BALANCE-SHEET.

31st Dec., 1903.		\$	c.
LIABILITIES.			
Capital		5,000,000.00	
Equalisation of dividend fund		500,000.00	
Accounts payable		1,454,263.43	
Balance of profit and loss account		687,470.23	
Less interim dividend paid		300,000.00	
		387,470.23	
		\$7,341,733.66	
31st Dec., 1903.		\$	c.
ASSETS.			
Cash		7,330.67	
Amount advanced on mortgage		2,354,553.00	
Amount invested in property		4,933,843.43	
Furniture account		4,073.79	
Accounts receivable		41,932.77	
		\$7,341,733.66	

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

31st Dec., 1903.		\$	c.
Dr.			
To interim dividend of 6 per cent. for the half-year		300,000.00	
To charges account		26,566.26	
To repairs to house property		21,610.84	
To advertising		854.05	
To fire insurance		10,431.83	
To balance to be appropriated as follows:—			
Directors' fees		\$ 7,500.00	
Managing directors' fees		27,003.60	
Auditors' fees		1,000.00	
Final dividend of 6 per cent. for the half-year		300,000.00	
Balance to be carried to new account		51,966.63	
		387,470.23	
		\$746,936.01	
31st Dec., 1903.		\$	c.
Cr.			
By undivided profits, 1902		51,707.26	
By interest on mortgages		\$202,066.75	
Less—Interest on loans payable		103,240.86	
		93,766.89	
By rents		25,026.86	
By commission		8,546.13	
By scrip fees		214.00	
By profit on sales of property		86,523.87	
By unclaimed dividends		1,152.00	
By transfer from equalisation of dividend fund		250,000.00	
		\$746,936.01	

WEST POINT BUILDING COMPANY, LD.

The following is the fifteenth report of the general agents to the ordinary meeting of shareholders of the above company to be held at the company's office, Victoria Buildings, at 11.45 a.m. on Wednesday, the 27th January:—

The net profits for the year, including the amount brought forward from the previous year, amount to \$41,912.54. From this amount an interim dividend of \$1.50 per share has already been paid, and after writing off directors' and auditors' fees, it is now proposed to pay a final dividend of \$1.70 per share, making a total dividend for the twelve months of \$3.20 per share, and to carry forward the balance of \$1,262.54 to credit of a new profit and loss account.

DIRECTORS.

Mr. C. S. Sharp having retired, Mr. A. G. Wood has been appointed in his stead, and this appointment now requires confirmation.

Hon. Sir Paul Chater, C.M.G., and Mr. A. G. Wood retire by rotation, but offer themselves for re-election.

AUDIT.

In the absence of Mr. J. C. Peter, the accounts have been audited by Mr. C. W. May, whose appointment now require confirmation, and who offers himself for re-election.

The accounts are as follows:—

BALANCE-SHEET.

31st Dec., 1903.		\$	c.
LIABILITIES.			
Capital		625,000.00	
Accounts payable		784.38	
Balance of profit and loss account		41,912.54	
Less interim dividend paid		18,750.00	
		23,162.54	
		\$648,946.92	

ASSETS.	
31st Dec., 1903.	
Cost of property	611,830.80
Cash	4,566.12
Accounts receivable	32,250.00
	\$648,946.92

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Dr		Cr.	
31st Dec mber, 1903.			
To fire insurance	4,095.62		
To charges	290.44		
To Crown rent and rates	9,010.08		
To repairs to buildings, &c.	1,336.21		
To commission to agents	2,157.28		
To interim dividend of \$1.50 for half-year	18,750.00		
To balance to be appropriated as follows:—			
Directors' fees	\$ 500.00		
Auditor's fees	50.00		
Dividend of \$1.70 per share ..	21,250.00		
Balance to be carried to new			
account	1,362.54		
	23,162.54		
	\$58,766.76		
1st January to 31st December, 1903.	\$ c.		
By balance brought forward	924.14		
By rent	56,492.68		
By interest	1,619.91		
scrip fees	30.00		
	\$58,766.76		

NATIONAL BANK OF CHINA, LD

The following is the report of the directors to the thirteenth ordinary annual general meeting of shareholders to be held at the office of the Bank, Hongkong, on the 30th January at noon:—

The gross profits, including \$15,613.80 brought forward from last year, are \$291,885.87, which, after deducting all charges, allowing for bad and doubtful debts, and writing \$5,000 off furniture account, leaves a net profit of \$162,574.80.

This the Directors propose to deal with as follows:—To pay a dividend of \$2.00 per share (in London 3/6) absorbing \$80,906.00, to place \$60,000.00 to Reserve, and to carry forward \$21,668.80.

On the departure of Mr. C. Ewens, Mr. Harston was elected a director, and on the departure of Mr. Lants, Mr. Julius Focke was again elected a director. These changes will require your confirmation.

Mr. Chow Tung Shau retires in rotation from the Head Office Board, and Mr. Stuart Wortley, K.C., M.P., from the London Committee, and being eligible for re-election, offer themselves accordingly.

The accounts at the Head Office have been audited by Mr. R. C. Wilcox and Mr. A. R. Lowe, Chartered Accountant, in London, by Messrs Deloitte, Dever, Griffiths and Co., Chartered Accountants.

The accounts are as follows:—

BALANCE-SHEET.

31st DECEMBER, 1903.

LIABILITIES.

Authorised capital:—	\$ c.
750 founders' shares of £1 each £	750
99,925 ordinary shares of £10 each	999,250
	£1,000,000
Issued capital (laid down in the East at 3s.)	
750 founders' shares of £1 each—fully paid, £750 ..	\$ 5,000.00
4,453 ordinary shares of £10 each—£8 paid up, £323,624	2,157,493.32
Capital reserve fund	191,973.33
Reserve fund	115,533.35
	2,470,000.00
Notes in circulation	473,925.00
Fixed deposits and current accounts	659,062.97
Loans payable	420,000.00
Bills for collection and branch balances ..	186,939.59
Drafts, acceptances and endorsements (bills re-discounted)	473,361.59
Balance of profit and loss account	162,574.80
	\$4,845,863.95

ASSETS.

Cash, in hand and at bankers	\$ 350,515.81
Government securities belonging to the bank	312,000.00
Bills receivable, loans and advances	2,489,403.30
Bills for collection, receivable and branch balances	1,653,944.84
Furniture	10,000.00
	\$4,845,863.95

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

For the year ending 31st December, 1903.

Charges, directors' fees, salaries, &c.	\$ c.
Amount to be placed to reserve fund	60,000.00
Dividend account, proposed payment of \$1.00 per share on 4,453 shares (3s. 6d. per share in London exchange of 1s. 9d.)	80,906.00
Balance to be carried forward to next account	21,668.80
	162,574.80
	\$291,885.87
Balance brought forward from last year ..	\$ c.
Gross earnings for year ending 31st December, 1903	15,613.80
	276,272.07
	\$291,885.87
On the 1st January, 1904, our capital and reserve funds will stand as follows:—	
Capital fully paid founders' shares	\$ 5,000.00
Capital, partly paid ordinary shares	2,457,493.32
Capital reserve fund	191,973.33
Reserve fund	175,533.35
	\$2,530,000.00

SUPREME COURT

Friday, 15th January.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR A. G. WISE (JUDGE).

CLAIM BY WATKINS, LIMITED.

Mr. G. A. Watkins, of Watkins Limited, sued Captain Triplett, an unemployed master mariner, for \$30.80 in respect of goods sold and delivered. Mr. F. X. d'Almada e Castro, solicitor, appeared for the plaintiff.

Defendant when called admitted \$18.90 of the amount. But he repudiated the claim for so-called waters. "Why," he said, "I never drink whisky and soda; I always drink it with water."

His Lordship—But you have admitted part of the claim?

Defendant—Yes, your Lordship, but I do not know how I can drink two dozen bottles of soda with one bottle of whisky.

His Lordship said the defendant must pay and gave judgment accordingly.

Monday, 18th January.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR WILLIAM M. GOODMAN (CHIEF JUSTICE).

THE CALENDAR.

The cases appearing on the list numbered seven, implicating eleven persons. No cases of a very serious nature figured among these.

DISCHARGED.

Hon. Sir Henry S. Berkeley, Attorney-General, who appeared for the Crown (instructed by Mr. F. B. L. Bowley, Crown Solicitor), stated that in cases Nos. 5 and 7, against Fong Tam, and Wong Mun and Wan Cheung, no indictment had been filed.

These defendants were accordingly discharged.

THE CHARGE AGAINST D. BAZIN.

The Attorney-General said he proposed to take the case in which D. Bazin is charged with criminal libel on Wednesday morning. Mr. Slade was appearing on the other side.

The defendant was liberated on extended bail.

ARMED ROBBERY.

Man Kau, Ip Sung, and Tong On were brought up on a charge of having on 29th November last assaulted two women, Lo Ki and Li Mui, in a house in Wanchai, and stolen from them a large quantity of jewelry and other property, and, alternatively, with having on 30th November received the stolen goods. They pleaded not guilty.

The following jury was empanelled:—Messrs L. Gibbs, J. Ferguson, R. W. Houghton, H. T. Richardson, R. Packham, G. F. Eberius, and W. Wadeken.

The Attorney-General in opening the case said that on 29th November some time in the

afternoon, about half-past five or so, three men believed to be the prisoners entered a house in Wanchai occupied by two women, and by means of threats with which they frightened the women, and assisted in their terrorism by having knives in their possession, succeeded in obtaining from these women a large quantity of property, jewelry and other things; and then they left the house and disappeared. From information received by the police they visited on the following day a brothel in the neighbourhood and there found several of the articles which were subsequently identified as having been stolen on the evening previously. They found in the brothel the first and second defendants, and evidence would be given that the articles found in the brothel had been taken there by the first defendant and given to one of the inmates, and also to show that the three prisoners were together within a very short time previously in this brothel. They left the brothel, and within an hour or so after that the robbery was committed. Evidence would be given to prove that shortly after the robbery, next day, two of the prisoners were found together in the brothel in the cubicle of one of the inmates and that all three prisoners visited that place on the morning after the robbery. The first prisoner admitted that he had the stolen goods in his possession, but said he got them from a man to keep for him and did not know they had been stolen.

Evidence having been given,

The jury found the first prisoner guilty of robbery, the second of receiving, and the third not guilty.

His Lordship sentenced the first prisoner to three years' imprisonment with hard labour and to receive 24 strokes of the birch within the first month of his incarceration, and the second to eighteen months' imprisonment.

AN ABSENT JURYMAN.

When the first jury was empanelled in the forenoon Mr. W. S. Bailey's name was the sixth to be taken out of the box by the Registrar (Mr. A. Seth). Mr. Bailey was absent.

His Lordship directed that Mr. Bailey be notified to attend at two o'clock and explain his absence.

In the afternoon when the second jury was being formed Mr. Bailey's name was the first called. On this occasion he was present.

On being asked if he had any explanation to offer, Mr. Bailey stated that he had left his summons to attend the Court on his desk in his Hongkong office at the end of last week and had been over at his Kowloon works since then. When he was reminded that morning of the summons he at once came over in his launch but did not arrive till half-past ten, and as there was a case then proceeding he did not wish to interrupt the Court. He was sorry for his late arrival and hoped his Lordship would overlook it, as he had served on the jury for many years and had never offended before.

His Lordship said that while he would excuse him, he was afraid his excuse was not a very good one because he came half-an-hour late and the result was that somebody else had to take his place. However as he had served for many years as a juror and had not offended before his Lordship would excuse him and the best thing Mr. Bailey could do was to go into the box and serve on the present case.

ROBBERS.

Wong Chun and Kang Tam were charged with having on 23rd November at Chaiwan, assaulted a man named Shing Fat and robbed him of \$350, and with stealing from the house of Shing Fat property belonging to Cheung Kiu and valued at over \$25; alternatively they were charged with having received stolen property at Quarry Bay.

They pleaded not guilty.

The following jury was empanelled:—Messrs W. S. Bailey, R. E. N. Padfield, P. Simcock, J. Rodger, A. A. da Roza, A. D. Humphreys and P. M. N. Silva.

The Attorney-General in opening the case said that on the 23rd November a gang of robbers entered the complainant's house in which were two men. They seized and tied up the two men, throwing lime in the eyes of one of them. Then they ransacked the place, stole the money and property, and decamped. Nothing was heard of the persons who had perpetrated the outrage until the 30th November. On that date

a boy who had seen the robbers at the time of the robbery was at Shaukiwan when he saw one of the men who had been in the gang. He ran and told the complainant, who lived near, that he had seen this man. Complainant secured the assistance of a constable and the man and his companion were arrested. In their possession was found a large quantity of the property that had been stolen from the complainant's house. A woman who was in the house at the time would identify the other prisoner as one of the robbers.

After hearing witnesses for the prosecution and defence, the jury retired at 1.22 to consider their verdict, and returned at 6.28 with an unanimous verdict of guilty against the first prisoner on the first count; they found the second prisoner guilty on the first count by a majority of five to two.

His Lordship sentenced the first prisoner to seven years' imprisonment with hard labour and to receive a flogging of 24 strokes; the second (who was a boy about 17 years of age) to two years' imprisonment and a flogging of 24 strokes.

The Court adjourned at 6.40 till to-morrow (Tuesday) at 10 a.m.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR A. G. WISE
(PUISNE JUDGE).

CLAIM BY WENDT & CO.

The case was again called in which Wendt & Co. merchants, 6 Ice House Street, claimed from the Chop Yik firm the sum of \$1,066.54 restricted to \$1,000, being damages sustained by the plaintiffs by reason of the non-acceptance by the defendants of 20 cases of Oxford shirtings contracted to be purchased by them from the plaintiffs under contract dated 18th February last. Mr. H. W. Looker of Messrs Deacon, Looker and Deacon, solicitors, appeared for the plaintiffs, and Mr. M. W. Slade, barrister-at-law (instructed by Mr. F. X. d'Almada e Castro, solicitor), was for the defendants.

His Lordship in delivering judgment said this was an action by the plaintiffs against the defendants for failure to take delivery of some 20 boxes of shirting. The contract was entered into between the parties on 18th February, and the goods were to be delivered in two shipments, the first "the soonest possible" and the second within a month after delivery of the first. It had been argued on behalf of the plaintiffs that the only contract the Court had to consider was that between them and the defendants, and that it must not consider any contract between the plaintiffs and the manufacturers. But he considered that even if the term "the soonest possible" was used, when a merchant contracted to deliver certain goods there must be implied conditions that the arrangements he makes at home with the manufacturer must be reasonable arrangements so that the goods must arrive within reasonable and proper time; otherwise the contract was useless, as they might arrive fifty years hence. On 18th February the plaintiffs wired home to the manufacturer asking for supply of the goods in two months and got a reply to the effect that the goods could only be supplied within four months. There had been a dispute between the two experts, Mr. Smyth and Mr. Brooke Smith, as to what four months' arrival meant. Mr. Smyth stated the meaning to be that the goods should arrive four months from the arrival of the patterns and he also gave as a reason for it that until the patterns arrived the manufacturers, even although their looms were empty, could not set to work upon the goods. He also stated that in the repeat order in all probability the time would run from the date of the contract because the manufacturer was waiting for further details. Mr. Brooke Smith on the other hand said that in his experience the time ran from the date of the contract and that the manufacturer gave such time as would include if necessary the time occupied by the details going home. It seemed that the manufacturers could put their own construction on that. They refused to do the work in two months and fixed four months. It was clear that they meant four months from 18th February, for it was a June shipment that was mentioned. Mr. Smyth thought the time in which the goods were delivered not

unreasonable. Mr. Brooke Smith thought that it was not a reasonable time, although he admitted that there were cases when the manufacturers' looms were full or a strike on so that they could not do the work. There had been no evidence given one way or another as to how the delay occurred. He was afraid he must assume that there was unnecessary delay on the part of the manufacturer, and although that did not altogether affect the merchant, at the same time he thought there was an implied condition that he must make arrangements at home that there must be no unreasonable delay on the part of the manufacturer. In the absence of evidence he assumed that the manufacturers exceeded their time. With regard to the alleged acceptance of part of the first shipment, his Lordship declined to hold the signature in the chit-book as an acceptance. There had been some sort of argument hinted at that as the second shipment had come within a month after the first, it should have been accepted in accordance with contract; but if the first shipment was bad it appeared to him that the second shipment was bad. Judgment for defendants and costs.

The Court adjourned.

Tuesday, 19th January.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR A. G. WISE
(PUISNE JUDGE).

CLAIM BY A PARTNER.

Tong Sun On, trader, 12, Sai Yuen Street, claimed from Wan In Nam, trader, master of the Kwan Wo Tung firm, 52, Aberdeen Village, the sum of \$175.67, being monies deposited by the plaintiff with the defendant as to \$10 on two separate deposit receipts of \$50 each written in the Chinese language and dated 5th August, 1902, and as to \$75.67 on a deposit receipt written in the Chinese language and dated 4th December, 1902. Mr. J. Hays, of Messrs Johnson, Stokes and Master, solicitors, appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. E. A. Bonner, of Messrs Dennys and Bowley, solicitors, for the defendant.

The case had been up on a previous date, on which occasion an adjournment had been granted on the application of the defendant to permit of some partnership accounts being translated.

Evidence was taken. That for the plaintiff was to the effect that the parties had at one time been partners in a business concern, but that this money had been deposited with the defendant apart from any partnership transactions. Evidence for the defendant went to show that this money was advanced by the plaintiff to complete his share in the partnership account.

His Lordship gave judgment for defendant, and costs.

PROMISSORY NOTES CASE.

Chow Cheong Hing claimed from Chan Hi, trading as Chan Tung Sang, the sum of \$689.50 due on three promissory notes. Mr. E. A. Bonner, of Messrs Dennys & Bowley, solicitors, appeared for the plaintiff and Mr. H. K. Holmes, solicitor, for the defendant.

Evidence having been taken,

His Lordship gave judgment for the plaintiff, and costs.

The Court adjourned.

Wednesday, 20th January.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR WILLIAM
M. GOODMAN (CHIEF JUSTICE).

DISCHARGED BY PROCLAMATION.

The only case, remaining to be disposed of was that in which Captain Dominic Bazin was charged with criminal libel. The Hon. Attorney-General Sir Henry S. Berkeley appeared for the Crown (instructed by Mr. F. B. L. Bowley, Crown Solicitor), and Mr. E. W. Slade, barrister-at-law (instructed by Mr. R. Harding, of Messrs. Ewens & Harston, solicitors), appeared for the defence.

The Attorney-General stated that he had no case against the defendant and did not intend to proceed.

Defendant was accordingly discharged by proclamation.

This closed the Sessions.
The Court rose at 10.5 a.m.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR A. G. WISE
(PUISNE JUDGE).

A CHANGE OF FIRM.

The Chinese American Commercial Company, merchants, 21, Connaught Road, sue the Hang Chung Tai and the Hang Chung Loong firms, watchmakers, 140 Bonham Strand, and Wong King and Tam Tin, partners therein, for \$537.61 in respect of goods sold and delivered. Mr. H. W. Looker of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon, solicitors, appeared for the plaintiffs and Mr. F. X. d'Almada e Castro, solicitor, for the Hang Chung Loong and Tam Tin.

Mr. Looker—We say they are the same firm.

His Lordship—it is the usual New Year shop shuffle, I suppose.

Mr. d'Almada said he knew nothing about Hang Chung Tai and Wong King.

Mr. Looker went on to explain that the plaintiffs sold some goods in the early part of last year to the Hang Chung Tai who carried on business as watchmakers, and the man then in charge, apparently the master, was Wong King. There was a balance of some \$900 remaining in respect of the payment for these goods, but somewhere about November of last year Wong King paid \$400 on account. He often came to plaintiffs' shop and they went to his to press for payment. This business had been carried on always by two men, one of whom the Chinese referred to as Smith, who appeared to be the manager. On 30th November plaintiffs' shroff went to the Hang Chung Tai shop to ask for payment of the outstanding account, and Smith told him that the master (presumably Wong King) had gone to Macao. On 2nd December the shroff went back again and on that occasion was told that the master had not returned. On the 7th he again went back and having asked the same man if the master had returned the man asked him what he wanted. The shroff told him that he wanted payment of this account. Smith thereupon said that Wong King was not now master; the shop-style had been altered and the business had been bought on 2nd December by Tam Tin. Plaintiffs admitted that the sale had been advertised but alleged that it was purposely put into the smallest of the six Chinese newspapers and the only one which plaintiff did not take in, of which, fact, they said, Wong King had knowledge.

Evidence was taken.

For the defence the case was that the sale of the business to Tam Tin was a *bona-fide* sale, that he was not responsible for the vendor's debts and that the sale was duly advertised.

His Lordship gave judgment for the defendants with costs.

Thursday, 21st January.

IN BANKRUPTCY.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR WILLIAM
M. GOODMAN (CHIEF JUSTICE).

THE BANKRUPTCY LAWS.

Leung Tsat Tai asked for administration of the estate of Fung Yung, alias Fung Chik Sang, deceased, according to the Bankruptcy Law, under Section 81 of the Bankruptcy Ordinance, 1891. Mr. H. K. Holmes solicitor, appeared in support of the petitioning creditor.

His Lordship—You ask to have the estate of the deceased administered according to the Bankruptcy law on the ground that there are insufficient assets to meet the debts. On whom have you served the petition?

Mr. Holmes—It is served on Fung Leung Shin, who has made a declaration that she is the widow of the deceased.

His Lordship—Has she taken out letters of administration?

Mr. Holmes—No.

His Lordship—Have you served the petition on the Official Administrator?

Mr. Holmes—No, your Lordship, it has not been served on the Official Administrator.

His Lordship—I think I shall have to adjourn the case for this service. I think I shall have to explain what the law is upon this subject as there seems to have been some misapprehension upon it. You can serve the Administrator between this time and the next sitting if I adjourn this case for a week. You are content with that I think, Mr. Registrar? You are the Official Administrator.

The Registrar (r. A. Seth)—Yes, my Lord.

His Lordship—In regard to these cases, I propose to have a settled practice. Of course where a person dies leaving an estate which is not sufficient to pay his debts it is good policy to have some provision that his creditors should receive payment *pro rata* from his estate. For that purpose, in England, Section 125 of the Bankruptcy Act of 1883 was passed to regulate the procedure. We adopt that law in our local Ordinance, No. 20 of 1891, Section 81, which is for the most part a reproduction in a somewhat abbreviated form of the English Act. Section 81 has various sub-sections. The first says that the creditor of the deceased debtor whose estate is shown to be insufficient for the payment of the debts owing by the deceased person may present a petition to the Court praying for the administration of the estate of the deceased person according to the Bankruptcy law, and the Court, if satisfied that the estate is insufficient for the payment of the debts of the deceased person, shall make an order accordingly; and the form of the order is given. In order that the Court may know, or have good reason for being satisfied that the estate is insufficient for the payment of debts it is clear that there ought to be somebody who has examined into the matter—having a right to examine into the matter—who can give the Court that information. Now if a person dies and does not leave a will, the ordinary person to examine into his affairs would be his legal personal representative; that is to say, the person who has taken out letters of administration. No doubt his widow, in this case, would be entitled to take out letters of administration. If the widow having taken out letters of administration examines into his affairs and satisfies the Court that the estate could not pay its debts, then the Court has something to go upon. This makes quite clear the meaning of Sub-section 2. Sub-section 2 provides that the legal personal representative may be in the position to say, for instance, "I think the estate is solvent; I do not want it wound up in that way," by requiring that a petition of this kind should not be made behind the back of the personal representative; that is to say, notice is required to be given. In other words Sub-section 2 states as follows:—"The application for administration according to the Bankruptcy law shall when made in respect of the estate of a deceased person be served upon the personal representative of such deceased person or if there be none in the Colony, upon the Official Administrator of intestate estates." The reason of that is that if there is no person who has taken out administration then the property vests in the Official Administrator and he will be the person to certify the Court as to whether the estate is solvent or insolvent. In that respect our law differs from the English law. There is no provision, so far as I can recollect, in the English law about the service on the Official Administrator, and the service there is to be upon the legal personal representative. Now, in this case, Mr. Holmes has served this petition upon the widow and she would be entitled, if she asked and if she found security, to take out letters of administration. But she has not done that and therefore at the present time there is no legal personal representative in the Colony. Under those circumstances the petition must be served on the Official Administrator of intestate estates. That has not been done. Therefore I will allow the hearing to be adjourned. There is one case which I might call attention to, which is a decision of the Court of Appeal in England. That is the case in *re Sleet ex parte Sleet*, reported in the second volume, Queen's Bench Division, 1894. It says there that the petition if served before the letters of administration are granted is a good service if, before the hearing and the making of the order, the person upon whom the service has

been made has taken out administration. Therefore this service by Mr. Holmes on the widow would have been a good service if she had taken out administration between the date of that service and the hearing in the Court to-day. I understand from him that she has not taken out administration, that she does not feel herself to be in a position to do so and is not likely to apply. Under these circumstances it is clear that service must be on the Official Administrator of intestate estates. I adjourn further hearing of this petition until that has been done.

The Court adjourned.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR A. G. WISE
(PUISNE JUDGE).

Tang Man sued U Chat Chung and Fung Cheung for two sums of \$33 and \$74.75, being money disallowed by the arbiter, Mr. B. Brotherton Harker, in respect of work done on buildings on I land Lot No. 69. Mr. C. E. H. Beavis of Messrs. Wilkinson & Grist, solicitors, appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. C. Ewana, of Messrs. Ewens & Harston, for the defendant. After hearing evidence, his Lordship disallowed the sums above-mentioned.

SPORTING NOTES.

(Daily Press, 16th January.)

After an interlude of League cricket last Saturday, the Cricket Ground should to-day have been the scene of the return match between the H.K.C.C. and The Garrison. The latter, however, have found themselves unable to raise an eleven, and in consequence the opposition is to be furnished by a combined Army and Navy side. The Club has got a strong team together—not far off full strength in fact—and as the Services seem to be a fairly powerful lot the match should be a good rehearsal for the return Club v. United Services game at China New Year. But, with war rumours so thick as they now are, it is not safe to count too much on matches where our naval and military defenders are concerned. Cricketers will certainly hope for a continuance of peace.

Three League matches take place to-day, the *Tamar* meeting the H.K.C.C. Reserves, the R.A.M.C. the Craigengower C.C., and the Civil Service C.C. the Parsees the present holders of the "wooden spoon." The table stands thus at present:—

	Played.	Won.	Lost.	Drawn.	Points.
A.O.C.	10	9	1	0	27
Civil Service	7	5	1	1	16
R.E.	7	4	3	0	12
Craigengower	8	3	3	2	11
H.M.S. <i>Tamar</i>	5	2	3	0	6
R.A.M.C.	6	1	4	1	4
H.K.C.C. "A"	6	1	5	0	3
Parsees	5	0	5	0	0

The Association Shield matches are being left to the last fortnight of the month, with the exception of the game played last Saturday between the *Leviathan* and the *Glory*. The *Leviathan* men effected a surprise, but they well deserved their victory in a splendidly played match; they will meet the R. A. in the second round. The *Glories* do not appear up to last year's form. Four more ties remain to be decided in the first round, while the *Ocean*, *Albion*, and R.A. teams have the privilege of a bye. Civilians are interested chiefly, of course, in the doings of the non-service teams, but it is rather hard to form an opinion on their merits even now. The H.K.F.C. suffers from the lack of a third half to take the place of Capt. Macdonald, who this year will play for the R.A. regimental team. Danby has been taken out of the forward line to partner Bonnar and Gray, thereby weakening the forwards, who are not too strong on present form. The Club's opponents in the first round, the Naval Yard F.C., have been lying very low of late. Their early appearances were not very encouraging, but they may have something "up their sleeves." The V.R.C. should beat the *Tamar*, but the Rovers cannot hope to survive the game against the *Sherwood Foresters*, in spite of their win over a so-called R.E. team on Saturday last.

The principal hockey events of the past week were as follows:—On Monday the H.K.H.C. lost to the 110th Mahrattas (0—1); on Tuesday the 110th Mahrattas beat the 93rd Burmas (4—0); on Wednesday the H.K.H.C. beat H.M.S. *Vengeance* (1—0); yesterday the H.K.H.C. beat H.M.S. *Leviathan* (1—0). The Club's improvement is noteworthy. On Wednesday they won in spite of being one short. They have discovered a really first-class goal-keeper in Woodman.

Training for the V.R.C. scratch 4-oared races, to be held on the 30th inst., is going on. A V.R.C. "smoker" will probably be held on the 13th of next month. It is hoped that the athletic sports will be held about the 1st of April.

Kobe entertained Yokohama at Rugby football on the 2nd inst., the visitors, with a better forward lot, gaining a merited victory by 2 tries to nil. The names of the teams may be of interest. They are:—Yokohama:—Mitchell (back); Wheeler, Oatwright, Kilby, Graham (three-quarters); J. E. Moss, Hayward (halves); W. S. Moss, Stuart, Ward, Strome, Kingston, W. J. White, Squires, H. B. White, (forwards). Kobe:—Atkinson (back); Gillingham, Jeffrey, P. L. Spence (three-quarters); E. H. Moss, Lucas (halves); Murray, Scudamore, Kilpatrick, Spence, Cornes, Rankin, Stewart, Allcock (forwards).

(Daily Press, 23rd January.)

The most interesting sporting events to-day perhaps are the Football field ties, especially that between the H.K.F.C. and the Naval Yard. In this engagement the Club has one of its regular backs missing and Danby is still compelled to play in the half-back line. So little has been seen of the Naval Yard team as yet that it would be unsafe to prophesy as to the result. The winners have to meet H.M.S. *Ocean* in the second round, and as the *Ocean* on Thursday beat the *Leviathan*, who last Saturday knocked the *Glory*, the Shield-holders, out of the competition, the prospects are not encouraging. I shall not expect to see a civilian team in the semi-final, even though the H.K.F.C. should win to-day. The Rovers should be outclassed in their tie with the *Sherwood Foresters* to-day. Their attempt to form a new football club in Hongkong is courageous, but can hardly meet with much success in its first season. After to-day, provided neither match is drawn, the only outstanding match will be that between the R.E. and the *Cressy*. As the first round must be finished on or before next Saturday the Engineers may perhaps have a walk-over, and will then meet the *Sherwood Foresters* or Rovers in the second round. After the *Ocean's* defeat of the *Leviathan* in the Naval League game on Thursday, the victors will be strongly fancied for the Shield, unless the *Foresters'* regimental team turns out a really good one. Last year we had no chance of seeing what the new regiment could do.

The match on the Cricket Ground between a Public Schools and Universities team and the rest of the Club should prove interesting. The Naval element is very strong, nine out of the 21 first-choices being from the Fleet in harbour now. The Public Schools and Universities look likely winners from their all-round strength. The match is timed to begin at 11.30 a.m. If it does, there should be a chance of a definite finish—which there was not last Saturday. When the hours of cricket are so limited, it is questionable whether a little more interest for the spectators at least might not be infused into the game by an occasional trial being given to a system which has been experimented with at home and occasionally in the East, whereby each side bats for an hour or less in turn, the sum totals of the two teams in an equal amount of time being set against one another.

League cricket continues to-day, the all-conquering A.O.C. meeting the H.K.C.C. Reserves (who occupy a much less favourable position in the table). Since their last match, the A.O.C. have lost two of their best men in Lillywhite and Bradford, homeward bound now on the *Delaware*.

which were no less than 15 boundaries, the They have other good bats, but no other bowler so effective as Bradford, so that it is fortunate for them that the bulk of their League games have already been played. The Craigengower C. C. meets the R.E.; and the Civil Service C.C. was to have played the *Tamar* to-day, but the *Tamar*, only able to put seven men in the field last week, cannot this week raise a team at all and has scratched. The R.A.M.C. meets the Parsees. These appear the two weakest teams in the competition; but the R.A.M.C. has the advantage of 4 points (a win and a draw).

At hockey some interesting games have been played this week. The H.K.H.C. on Monday beat H.M.S. *Centurion* (4-3); on Wednesday, with a poor team, lost to the 110th *Mahrattas* and yesterday lost to H.M.S. *Leviathan* (4-0). Last week the Club beat the *Leviathan* (1-0), but the naval men this week defeated the 110th *Mahrattas*, the Club's conquerors, at Kowloon. Fixtures next week include H.K.H.C. v. H.M.S. *Ocean* and H.K.H.C. v. 93rd *Burmas*, the latter of whom have just finished their company competition at hockey. The Cup contest starts before the end of the present month, entries closing at 5 p.m. on the 28th. This year it will be conducted on the knock-out system. The 93rd *Burmas* ought to stand an excellent chance.

The entries for the Races are now published. The largest number of ponies entered for any race is 67 (Nil Desperandum Stakes). The Maiden Stakes have attracted 19 entries, the Derby 20, the German Cup 51, the Challenge Cup 36, and the "Blake" Challenge Cup 29. The largest entry of walters in three races is 10 (Foonchow Cup). Nearly 50 stables in all are represented.

Good sound work has been going on at the racecourse since the closing of the entries last Saturday. The best gallop so far has been done by Mr. Paul Chater's sub, which did the 1½-mile in fine order, finishing in good style. This pony is now a strong favourite for the Valley Stakes and German Cup. The subscription ponies have developed wonderfully, being now considered to be a very good lot; indeed, as good a lot as has been seen for many years. Up to date the Derby favourite is Mr. Goetz's *Nurses*; as he is not yet in full training, however, it is difficult to form a correct notion of his capabilities, but he comes from Tientsin with a splendid reputation. As far as I know, nothing has been settled about his rider; as he has a very bad temper, this is a very important matter. Messrs. Mody's and Lewis's Derby ponies are considered to be very good; they have been in first-class form in their training.

A couple of interesting revolver matches have been decided lately. In the first a Hong-kong Volunteer team, got together by Capt. D. Macdonald, tried conclusions with the 93rd *Burmas*, but were badly beaten by over 100 points. This week the *Burmas* defeated by 45 points H.M.S. *Glory*, who had won a previous match against them.

There is little to say about the V.R.C. When they played in the Shield soccer match against the *Tamar* they showed better organisation than their victorious opponents, but very weak kicking and shooting. Training for the scratch four-oared races, to come off on the 30th, continues. A smoking concert has been fixed for the 6th prox., a very good programme being forthcoming. Nothing is yet fixed regarding the sports; the 1st April is probably the date.

OMPAX.

CRICKET.

H.K.C.C. v. AN UNITED SERVICES TEAM.

The number of hours allowed for this match were insufficient on the 16th inst. and the H.K.C.C. were thus deprived of what should have been a very easy victory, the United Services team at the close wanting 180 runs to save the game and only having three wickets to fall. For their commanding position the Club had to thank chiefly W.C.D. Turner, who scored 104, out of which as many as 84 were from four-hits; and Cooper, who, after having

10 runs hit off his first eleven deliveries, took 3 wickets without giving away another run. The Club won the toss and made a poor start, Sercombe Smith being out at 10, and the first 43 runs costing 3 wickets. Then, however, Turner was joined by Dixon and a fine stand was made. Despite frequent bowling changes the century was hoisted, and it was not until 115 that Dixon was dismissed by Davies off Chichester's bowling. Pearce joined Turner, and another long stand occurred. Turner doing the bulk of the scoring. At 182 his innings was at last brought to a close, Barron catching and bowling him. Turner put on 104 out of 172 while he was in. Mast and Bird alone of the remaining men reached double figures. Pearce carrying his bat for 44. The time was then 3.50 p.m., and it was evident that the Club would have little chance of winning the game. The Services' early representatives made a fairly good defence, moreover, and the first wicket (Heath's) produced 39 runs. Cornabe was out at 45, and Goldsmith at 47, but Watson and Barron got the ninety hoisted. Both were out soon after and the score stood at 102 for five wickets. Two more fell before stumps were drawn, Cooper proving deadly. Time did not permit a definite conclusion, and the Services managed to save the game. Scores and analysis:—

H.K.C.C.

R. Hancock, b Barron	20
T. Sercombe Smith, c Barron, b Gibson	1
W. C. D. Turner, c and b Gibson	104
H. Hancock, b Gibson	1
J. T. Dixon, c Davies, b Chichester	28
T. E. Pearce, not out	44
H. Arthur, c Cherry, b Barron	0
E. Mast, c and b Barron	10
J. E. Lee, c Cornabe, b Heath	6
C. R. S. Cooper, c Gibson, b Heath	1
R. E. O. Bird, c and b Barron	10
Extras	17

Total 242

UNITED SERVICES.

Lieut. Heath, c Bird, b R. Hancock	24
Lt. Cornabe, R.N., c Turner, b R. Hancock	20
Comdr. Watson, R.N., b Cooper	24
Lieut. Goldsmith, b Dixon	0
Lieut. Barron, b Cooper	26
Corpl. Lilleywhite, c R. Hancock, b T. Smith	2
Capt. Davies, b Cooper	0
Lieut. Gibson, not out	5
Lieut. Chesny, not out	0
Extras	11

Total (7 wickets) 112

Major Chichester, D.A.A.G., and Lieut. Chesny, R.E., did not bat.

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

H.K.C.C.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Barron	22	4	71	5
Chesny	5	—	19	—
Gibson	10	1	46	2
Chichester	6	—	31	1
Cherry	3	—	20	—
Heath	8	2	38	2

UNITED SERVICES.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Dixon	11	—	37	1
R. Hancock	11	—	35	2
Cooper	6	4	10	3
Sercombe Smith	5	1	19	1

PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND UNIVERSITIES v.

THE REST.

This match on the Cricket Ground on 23rd inst. proved almost farcical, owing to the unevenness of the sides. The teams took the field as advertised, except that Piper did not play for the Public Schools and Biggs was to have taken his place, but did not turn up to bat. The Rest won the toss and went in. Only 2 byes had been scored when Barron was out, and this was an omen of what was to follow. Owing to some fair batting by Gibson 20 went up with 2 wickets down, but Gibson himself left with the score standing at 41 for 5 wickets. The next wicket added 7 and the remaining four 11. R. Hancock took 5 wickets in his last 17 deliveries. Altogether his analysis worked out at 5 for less than 4 a-piece, while Sercombe Smith took 5 for less than 6 each. When Heath and R. Hancock went in for the Public Schools and Universities, not only was the Rest's score passed but 77 was on the board before the first wicket (Heath's) fell. H. Hancock failed, but the next five men made light of the bowling. The 200 went up for 4 wickets, and the 300 for 5. Seven out of the 9 who went to the wicket got double figures, Goldsmith heading the list with 72 not out, in

remaining 12 being singles. As Goldsmith and Biggs were both absent the innings closed for 333, 284 ahead of the opponents' innings. Scores and analysis:—

THE REST.

Comdr. Shelford, c sub., b Smith	5
Lieut. Barron, c R. Hancock, b Smith	0
Lieut. Gibson, b R. Hancock	28
H. L. Rademacher, c sub., b Smith	3
Lieut. Greenstock, c and b R. Hancock	1
T. E. Pearce (capt.), l.b.w., b R. Hancock	2
A. Mackenzie, b Smith	7
E. W. Maitland, not out	1
A. Wilson, c Turner, b R. Hancock	0
Lieut. Comdr. Howard, c Heath, b Smith	0
J. A. Woodgates, c H., b R., Hancock	0
Extras	2

Total 49

PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND UNIVERSITIES.

R. Hancock, b Pearce	41
Lieut. Heath, b Pearce	46
H. Hancock, c Barron, b Greenstock	4
W. C. D. Turner, c Rademacher, b Gibson	37
A. G. Ward, c Pearce, b Maitland	65
Dr. Horley, st. Shelford, b Maitland	19
T. Sercombe Smith, c and b Mackenzie	30
Lieut. Goldsmith, not out	72
Rev. Phillips, b Mackenzie	0
— Goldsmith, R.N., absent	—
— Biggs, R.N., absent	—
Extras	19

Total 333

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

THE REST.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
R. Hancock	9	3	19	5
Sercombe Smith	3	3	28	5

PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND UNIVERSITIES.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Barron	9	—	38	—
Gibson	6	—	26	1
Rademacher	6	—	36	—
Pearce	9	1	58	2
Greenstock	7	—	55	1
Mackenzie	5	—	34	2
Maitland	4	—	45	—
Shelford	3	—	20	—
Woodgates	1	—	2	—

FOOTBALL.

H.K.R.F.C. v. THE WANDERERS.

This match was played on the Club ground on the 16th inst., and attracted a goodly muster of spectators. Shortly after 4.15 the Club opened proceedings, and immediately showed themselves much smarter all round than their opponents. Yet, despite their decided advantage in weight, and the resultant advantage thereby gained in working the scrums, the Wanderers contrived to clear their lines successfully, and now and again to initiate an attack on their own account. Midfield play was now fairly even, and scrums were frequent. Barnes, at three-quarter, was playing a good game for the Club, and the back division of the Wanderers were working like Trojans. King, who exhibited a fine turn of speed, at length got away and looked like running through, but Barnes collared him. The Wanderers were showing a decided smartness in passing, and a pretty movement looked dangerous for the Club, but Campbell intervened and relieved the pressure. At length Robertson, securing from Barnes, got over for the Club. The goal kick failed. Play continued of the give-and-take order from now until the whistle sounded. Half-time arrived with the score standing:—H.K.R.F.C., 3 points; Wanderers, 0. On resuming the Wanderers soon evidenced their determination to go all the way, and King again got away, and cleverly evading all opposition, got over the line. Campbell made no mistake with the goal-kick. The Club, now thoroughly warmed up to their work, pressed strongly, but the Wanderers were defending smartly. Again Campbell was prominent for some smart play at back, taking the ball down towards the Wanderers' goal, but was eventually forced over the touch-line. More scrambling play ensued, and then King, putting in some smart foot-work, ran right through, and planted the ball behind the posts. Again Campbell proved his efficiency as a marksman. Once more the Club attempted to get within scoring distance, but a knock-on spoiled the effort. The Wanderers were now showing a marked improvement on their display in the first half, and made persistent dangerous attacks on the Club lines. In the closing stages of the game Campbell got down for the Club, and, evading

all opposition, he ran through and scored. Barnes converted. The final score was:—

Wanderers—2 goals (10 points).

H.K.F.C.—1 goal 1 try (8 points).

The teams were:—

H.K.F.C.: R. D. Whitmore, full back; W. R. Robertson, O. J. Barnes, Lt. H. A. Crozier, and K. W. Solanders, three-quarters; Lt. P. H. Campbell and H. B. Jermain, halves; A. Boyd, E. S. Halifax, Lt. M. R. Strover, Newman, Lt. E. Rogers, W. A. Crake, H. C. Sandford and E. E. Bartlett, forwards.

Wanderers: Campbell, full back; Pedrick, Brown, Longmore and King, three-quarters; Shettle and De Vaulle, halves; Wells, Clare, Walter, Haddon, Ireland, Davies, Rowley, and Groves, forwards.

V.B.C. v. H.M.S. "TAMAR."

This Shield match was played at Happy Valley on the 21st inst. The *Tamar* kicked off and mid-field play continued for some time, after which the V.R.C. kept the ball on their opponents' side. The V.R.C. played a better game—though very feeble, indeed—than their opponents but they were decidedly weak when it came to shooting; the *Tamar's* goal, in fact, had an easy time. The *Tamar* made a good run down the left wing; a shot by Jeffery, however, failed to score. There was some exciting play soon after around the V.R.C. goal. It resulted in a goal kick opening another mild spell of play anywhere, so to speak. The V.R.C. again pressed, Holmes finishing the advantage with a high shot. Herton next made a powerful but very crooked kick for goal. Herton did some good play in the centre, but when it came to putting the finishing touch, like the other V.R.C. men, he was nowhere. Witchell proved a useful back; Lapsley was not up to what was expected of him. At half time the score was nil.

In the second half the *Tamar* seemed more at home, though, certainly, that is not saying much; the game was not a particularly interesting one. Pollard passed to Jeffery who in turn passed to Boffey; Boffey passed to Jeffery, who made no mistake about putting the ball into the net. The V.R.C. made an effort to draw, but the *Tamars* again took charge and Voce scored a second goal. Just as the final whistle blew Pollard shot, but the ball was met by the post. Result:—

Tamar, 2; V.R.C., 0.

The teams were:—

Tamar:—Stirrat, goal; Boffey, and Armitage, backs; But, Float, and Copeman, halves; Robinson, Pollard, Voce, Jeffery, and Hefferman, forwards.

V.R.C.:—Crake, goal; Lapsley and Witchell, backs; Gidley, Forbes, and Herton, halves; Clelland, Marti, Dixon, Holmes, and Sayer, forwards.

Mr. Trigg, referee.

H.K.F.C. v. H.M.S. "OCEAN."

Played at Happy Valley on the 22nd inst., this match ended in a victory for the Club. The Club turned out in striped jerseys and dark pants; the *Ocean* in green shirts and white. Gordon of the *Ocean* kicked off. The ball was well returned to touch. After a scrum the Club for about ten minutes kept the ball in their opponents' half of the field. The *Ocean* then gained ground, inch by inch perhaps, but they gained steadily. They were stronger in the frequent scrums, at last pressing so hard that the position was only saved by Crozier with a touch down. Play then continued fairly even, a few yards being gained and lost by either side by frequent kicks into touch. At last the *Ocean* got away, Dunston scoring a try close to the left corner flag; Pool took the kick, but failed to convert. A scrum next took place just outside the Club goal; the Club, however, carried the ball to mid-field, only just being prevented from getting away with it. A scrum infringement gave a free kick for Hongkong. Lewis, of the *Ocean*, passed to Dunston, who was promptly tackled by Macdonald, the Club back, when well towards the line. Cameron, of the Club, then got away with the ball; after passing it to Crozier, the latter was rushed into touch. Cameron, having twisted his wrist, retired from the field till after half-time. Again the *Ocean* pressed, but Macdonald dropped into touch from a difficult position. Rowley, of the Club, played an excellent game, especial-

ly in the scrums. At half-time the score was one try to nil in favour of the *Ocean*. After half-time play was kept on the Club side for some time, the *Ocean* once placing well, but Macdonald was again equal to the occasion. Then followed several scrums. The *Ocean* getting away were intercepted, the ball being passed to Jordan, who scored a try; Pierce made no mistake about converting it. On the restart, the *Ocean* forced a save. Play next continued in mid-field till Hodge (*Ocean*) passed forward to Pool in a clear field, a glorious opportunity being lost. Lieut. Smith deserves good mention at this stage of the game. There was a strong forward rush by the *Ocean*, the ball, finally being sent to touch. Scrums near the Club line followed, Crozier terminating these by a good kick. At the finish the game stood:—

H.K.F.C. 5 points; *Ocean*, 3 points.

H.K.F.C. v. NAVAL YARD.

Played at Happy Valley on the 23rd inst., this Shield game resulted in a win for the Club. The Naval Yard kicked off, the Club at once taking the ball down the field and scoring a goal through the agency of Hancock. The ball continued on the Navy side of the field, Bonnar playing an excellent game at half. From a pass from Gray, Hancock shot, but the ball went over the bar. The Navy Yard then pressed, Pearce sending the ball well down the field; Austen, being in the right place, promptly returned it. Gladwell took a long shot, but the ball was not well directed. From this point the Navy pretty well assumed the defensive. Hancock sent the ball into the net from a long shot, and Cooper followed this up with another shot, which, though met by the keeper, went through. A corner was given for the Club, but a chance was lost by a bad kick. Williams next made a bold shot which proved too difficult. Danby added a other goal. Hancock and Griffin had a nasty collision, the former being injured but able to continue. At half-time the score was H.K.F.C. 5 to nil. After recommencing, the Club again started to press hard round their opponents' goal; in fact, Kew, the Club goalkeeper, had little or no work during the game. Hancock now showed up prominently. The Navy Yard tried hard to improve matters, but the civilian team were a better organised and stronger lot. Sidney had all his work cut out in keeping the Navy Yard goal. He saved a hard shot by Gray, and fisted out another not long after, driven with force and precision by Cooper. After the ball had drifted around the field for a bit Gray passed to Hancock, who kicked over the bar. Hancock then put in another shot; the ball after rebounding from the cross-bar was driven home by Brent. Whitmore, after some pretty dodging, brought the ball to a good position and shot clean into the net. Hancock closed the scoring with another good shot. The game, a poor one, ended:—H.K.F.C., 8; Naval Yard, 0.

It might be mentioned that two men of the Club team, Danby and Kew, played in the last Shield competition won by a civilian club. That was in 1898, when the H.K.F.C. were victorious in the final.

SHERWOOD FORESTERS v. ROVERS.

This Shield match (first round) was played at Happy Valley on Saturday afternoon. The Sherwoods kicked off, starting to attack from the very commencement. The Rovers were a poor team, Ellis being too sick to play and there being three other substitutes. The backs, particularly, were very weak; Spurge and the goal-keeper, Christie, were the only two of any account, and Christie was in an impossible position. Play was in front of the Rovers' goal during the greater part of the game, Christie meeting the ball as if it were a punching-bag. Cope scored the first goal, the keeper having no chance to stop the ball. Murphy scored the second and third goals. Cunningham headed in the fourth. Next there was simply a bombardment at the Rovers' goal, some balls striking the post, some being stopped by Christie and four netted. At half-time the score was eight to nil in favour of the Sherwoods. After recommencing much the same sort of thing occurred. Murphy headed to Cope, who shot over Christie's head into the net. A goal was scored off a Rover; Murphy made one from a penalty. Off

a corner kick by Welch, Cope netted, and the same player shortly afterwards sent another shot home. It was altogether a very poor game, resulting in a military win by 15 goals to nil.

ROYAL HONGKONG YACHT CLUB.

The race for the cups presented by the Commodore of the Club was resailed on the 16th inst. The course was round the Rock, 1 mile S. W. of Cowe Chau Island. There was a moderate N. E. wind at the start and the yachts were despatched on their long run to the Rock at 1 p.m. *Iris* was away first. It was a very dead run, and as soon as the yacht got clear of the harbour they felt full force of the wind, which was knocking up quite a sea. The majority left Green Island on the port hand, but *Erica*, *Aileen*, and another went through the Sulphur Channel. After passing Green Island the wind drew slightly to the S. E., causing the yachts which were running with booms to port to be slightly by the lee. This made many of them roll in a manner that must have been extremely uncomfortable to helmsmen. *Aileen* had kept too far to the southward, and lost a good deal of ground by having to gybe and haul her wind to round the Rock. *Iris*, which had been sailing remarkably well off the wind, rounded first at 1h. 52m. 0s., followed by *Vernon*, at 1h. 52m. 20s. Then came *Alannah*, *Elspeth*, *Erica*, *Chanticleer*, *Bonita*, *Gloria*, *Min*, and *Doreen*, which all rounded before 1h. 54m. 0s., followed by *Kathleen* and *Aileen*. After rounding a great difference of opinion was shown by helmsmen as to the best course to sail. *Vernon*, *Alannah*, *Kathleen*, and *Min*, after standing across the flood tide for some time on the port tack, stood over to Cowe Chau, and after clearing the island made a long board toward Stonecutter's, the rest of the fleet, with the exception of *Doreen*, which had left Cowe Chau on the starboard hand, sailed for the Sulphur Channel in order to get the full benefit of the flood tide on their lee bow, and the advantage of the flood tide in the Channel itself. After clearing the Channel some distance *Erica* made over for Yaumati Bay, but *Bonita* and *Elspeth* worked the Hongkong shore. *Vernon*, sailing very well, although hard pressed by having too much canvas, for the wind was so strong that she and all the yachts would have been much better under reefed mainsails and second foresail, had established a commanding lead by the time she reached Stonecutter's, although *Alannah*, which was standing up to her canvas better than any other boat in the fleet, and sailing remarkably well, was sticking fairly closely to her, being well within her time allowance at Stonecutter's Island; but when *Erica* crept over to Yaumati Bay it was found that she was well ahead of the other boats that had chosen the northern course. *Bonita* had split her jib in the Sulphur Channel when she was well ahead of *Erica*. This accident spoilt her chances of second or third place. *Erica* carried away her forestay in Yaumati Bay, and this let up *Kathleen*. It is pretty clear therefore that the northern course through the Sulphur Channel was under the circumstances the best. *Vernon* finished first and won the cup by an ample margin; *Alannah* was second, and took second prize; *Elspeth* was third. A most exciting finish between *Kathleen*, *Bonita* and *Erica* resulted in favour of *Kathleen* by a few seconds; she therefore took third prize. After the race His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government presented the cups and congratulated the winners.

HONGKONG RACES.

Many sporting residents clothed themselves—and with every care too—while it was still dark on the morning of the 16th. As the numerous rickshas rattled towards the Happy Valley race-course, shortly before six o'clock, overtaking the ponies being lead out for practice, the light of the moon was just peeping over the range of hills to the eastward. Verture on the slopes, being well shaded, gave a blackish-green appearance, the parched and more or less worn-out plain below showing a brighter aspect. Everything was fresh, the horses, muffled up in their vari-

coloured hoods, being no exception. Later, as the ponies did their gallops, a crowd of gentlemen, with Sir Paul Chater in the centre, took the times. It was the last opportunity for owners to see what their horses were capable of doing before entering them, the closing time being 5 p.m. on Saturday-afternoon. Keener interest was therefore displayed in the training than on any previous occasion this season. Some of the times were as follows:—

Discord, 1-mile, last $\frac{1}{2}$:—36, 1.15, 1.38.
 Mr. W. E. Gray's sub., 1-mile, last $\frac{1}{2}$:—34, 1.07, 1.42.
Rare Rose, $\frac{1}{2}$ -mile:—34, 1.08, 1.41.
Vancouver, 1-mile:—36, 1.15, 1.50 $\frac{1}{2}$, 2.23.
 Mr. Rutter's sub., $\frac{1}{2}$ -mile, last $\frac{1}{2}$:—36, 1.07 $\frac{1}{2}$.
 Mr. Mody's cream sub., $\frac{1}{2}$ -mile:—33, 1.06, 1.39.
 Mr. Bonner's sub., and Mr. Lewis's Derby griffin went together $\frac{1}{2}$ -miles, last $\frac{1}{2}$:—36 $\frac{1}{2}$, 1.12, 1.47.
 Mr. Crago's Derby griffin, 1-mile, last $\frac{1}{2}$:—35 $\frac{1}{2}$, 1.12, 1.46 $\frac{1}{2}$.
Remnant and *Ichiban* went for a $\frac{1}{2}$ -mile race, *Remnant* reaching home ahead:—32 $\frac{1}{2}$, 1.03 $\frac{1}{2}$.
 Mr. Chater's sub. and Mr. Rutter's Derby griffin went together for 1-mile, last $\frac{1}{2}$:—35, 1.11, 1.42 $\frac{1}{2}$.
 Messrs. Hunter's, Mitchell's, and Hind's subs., 1-mile, last $\frac{1}{2}$:—34, 1.10 $\frac{1}{2}$, 1.45 $\frac{1}{2}$.
 Mr. Mody's cream Derby griffin 1-mile:—2.14; last quarter 36.
 Mr. Gubbay's and Dr. Atkinson's subs. went together for 1-mile, Dr. Atkinson's sub-coming in first:—33, 1.05, 1.41, 2.18.

Training on the 23rd was witnessed with great interest. It was a fine bright morning and several of the ponies did some excellent galloping. Among the spectators was His Excellency Mr. F. H. May, C.M.G. As a result of the turn-out, combined with good steady work preceding it, we can only express the opinion that the ever nearer race meeting will be of such a nature as Hongkong has never seen before. Work on the new members' stand is proceeding apace, and this with the space reclaimed over the stream, and with the improved arrangements for the Pari-mutuel, will contribute materially to making the function a success. On Saturday the gallop by Mr. Babington's sub. *Rocket* was considered to be a first-class performance; *Rocket* bids fair to do well for his owner. The Derby favourite from Tientsin, *Narses*, seemed to be very wild; judging by his style and behaviour on the course, unless he improves it is very doubtful whether he will be sufficiently trained for such a race as the Derby, which promises to be a good struggle. Some of the times were as follows:—

Set, $\frac{1}{2}$ -mile:—35, 1.10, 1.45.
Algerine, 1-mile:—38, 1.10, 1.52, 2.24 $\frac{1}{2}$.
Fun, $\frac{1}{2}$ -mile:—1.09.
Cheesai (water) $\frac{1}{2}$ -mile:—1.06.
Ichiban and *Remnant* (belonging to Mr. G. C. C. Master) 1-mile:—35 $\frac{1}{2}$, 1.10, 1.40 $\frac{1}{2}$, 2.11.
Runaway Girl, $\frac{1}{2}$ -mile:—29, 56 $\frac{1}{2}$.
Provost, 1-mile:—2.31 $\frac{1}{2}$.
Standard, 1-mile:—1.10, 1.50, 2.27.
Rocket, $\frac{1}{2}$ -mile:—33, 1.06, 1.40, 2.13, 2.45.
Taiyat, 1-mile:—39, 1.14, 1.49, 2.24.
Zoglab, $\frac{1}{2}$ -mile:—43, 1.21, 1.53.
Vancouver, 1-mile:—2.23.
La France Rose, $\frac{1}{2}$ -mile:—38 $\frac{1}{2}$, 1.13, 1.48, 2.82, 2.53 $\frac{1}{2}$.
Fiscal, $\frac{1}{2}$ -mile:—37, 1.11, 1.45, 2.18 $\frac{1}{2}$, 2.50 $\frac{1}{2}$.
Pajah, $\frac{1}{2}$ -mile, last $\frac{1}{2}$ -mile:—36, 1.10.
Regret and *Clifton*, $\frac{1}{2}$ -mile:—41, 1.22, 1.58, 2.36 $\frac{1}{2}$, 3.13, 3.45.
Manila and *Emigrant*, 1-mile:—34, 1.10 $\frac{1}{2}$, 1.47 $\frac{1}{2}$, 2.22 $\frac{1}{2}$.
Northern Rose (late *Danby*) $\frac{1}{2}$ -mile:—38, 1.13 $\frac{1}{2}$, 1.48, 2.24, 2.57.
Persistence, 1-mile:—34 $\frac{1}{2}$, 1.10, 1.52, 2.27.
Rare Rose, 1-mile, last $\frac{1}{2}$:—36, 1.09.
Lord Algy and *Bonzoline*, $\frac{1}{2}$ -mile:—38 $\frac{1}{2}$, 1.15, 1.49.
Chuntaqua, 1-mile, last $\frac{1}{2}$:—33 $\frac{1}{2}$, 1.07 $\frac{1}{2}$, 1.44.
Modesty, last $\frac{1}{2}$:—34, 1.10, 1.43.
Testotum, $\frac{1}{2}$ -mile, last mile:—32, 1.08, 1.45, 2.22.
Rea, 1-mile, last $\frac{1}{2}$:—36, 1.10.
Quebec, 1-mile:—37, 1.15, 1.51 $\frac{1}{2}$, 2.24.
 Next Wednesday's training is eagerly looked forward to, particularly to see if *Narses* will be "let out."

HONGKONG.

Mr. K. F. A. Harberg has been provisionally recognised as Consul-General for Norway and Sweden in Hongkong.

Invitations are being issued for a ball at Government House on Wednesday, the 3rd prox. On Friday in honour of the anniversary of the accession of King Edward VII. the warships in Harbour were decorated with bunting.

During the week ending the 17th inst. the visitors to the City Hall Library and Museum were 218 non-Chinese, to the former, and 88 non-Chinese and 2497 Chinese to the latter institution.

The appointments are notified in the *Gazette* of Mr. H. H. J. Gompertz as Police Magistrate and of Mr. J. H. Kemp as Assistant Secretary to the Sanitary Board.

We were notified from the Colonial Secretary's office on the 20th that a telegram had been received from the Deputy Governor, British North Borneo, to the effect:—"Quarantine restrictions removed in Labuan and Borneo." A positive scandal has thus been tardily remedied.

Transport No. 4, the B.I.S.N. Co.'s s.s. *Dilwara*, arrived here at 8 a.m. on the 15th some 500 troops for Hongkong: 171 with for the Sherwood Foresters, and the rest were divided between the A.O.C., Royal S. Artillery, and Royal Engineers. The *Dilwara* left Southampton on the 8th ult.; Singapore 9th inst.

Destruction of trees and shrubs on Crown property, for the purpose of obtaining cheap firewood, is largely on the increase in Hongkong, firs, stocks, and gaul notwithstanding. Yesterday there were again several cases of this description before the magistrates, and their Worshipships fined them variously from \$3 to \$5, adding several hours in the stocks.

At a meeting held at the Masonic Hall, on the 14th inst., under the presidency of Mr. Harry Wolfe, President of the Masonic Quadrille Club, it was decided to give a ball in the City Hall, under the auspices of that club, on the 4th of March, as a final dance of the club's season. The dances held monthly have been most popular, and no effort is to be spared to make the closing function a brilliant success, which, as it is in the hands of the same committee that has had the arrangements of the monthly dances, there can be no doubt it will be.

On the 23rd inst., night, about half-past nine o'clock, a gang of eight Chinese made an attempt to enter Messrs. Butterfield and Swire's dynamite-magazine at Quarry Bay, which, it will be remembered, was robbed by thieves some twelve months ago. On that occasion 400 lbs. of dynamite were stolen. Since that time the magazine has been guarded by an armed Sikh watchman. It is said that on Saturday night the gang set upon him with a view to forcing their way into the place. Fortunately he was able to blow his whistle and some of the European foremen living near came out to his assistance, whereupon the Chinese made off. All of them got clear away.

The 89th Company of Royal Garrison Artillery having been relieved by the 83rd Company, which arrived from Canada on the 19th will leave for Rangoon by a hired transport, the British India s.s. *Dilwara*, on Thursday afternoon at two o'clock. The *Dilwara* will, also, take home a number of details from the Sherwood Foresters, Royal Engineers, Army Ordnance Corps, and Royal Army Medical Corps. In all, there will be 600 men or so aboard, besides quite a few wives and families of soldiers, and the following indulgence passengers:—Mrs., and Miss Lambkin (wife and daughter of Lieut. Lambkin), Mrs. Hewett (wife of Capt. Hewett of the Pay Department), Mrs. Harvey (wife of Lieut. Harvey of the Royal Army Medical Corps), and child, Mrs. Murray (wife of Captain Murray of the Sherwood Foresters), Mrs. Bewley (wife of Major Bewley of the R.A.M.C.), Mrs. Davies (wife of Lieut. Davies of the 110th Bombay Light Infantry), Mrs. Pinchon (wife of Quartermaster Sergeant Pinchon of the Royal Engineers), Mrs. Siddon (wife of Staff Sergeant-Major Siddon), and Mrs. Brow (wife of Garrison Sergeant-Major Brow). In each instance the ladies will be accompanied by their husbands.

Mr. R. E. Shaw has joined the Hongkong Volunteers; Gunner E. R. Millar has resigned; Gunner F. G. Whittick has been transferred to the Shanghai Volunteer Corps; and Gunner W. L. Pattenden has been granted six months' leave of absence from the colony.

The dates of the performances of *His Excellency* by the A.D.C. are now fixed. The first series will take place on the 10th, 11th, and 13th February. Again after the China New Year holidays the opera will be staged on the 18th, 19th, and 20th prox.—making six performances in all. The Dallas Company's season will open on the 22nd prox.

The Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat Company have now arranged to run three steamers daily on the Hongkong-Canton line. Steamers leave Hongkong at 8 a.m., 5.30 p.m., and 9 p.m., and from Canton the times of departure are 8 a.m., 2.30 p.m. and 5.30 p.m. (Sundays excepted). These increased facilities will be welcomed by the public and will doubtless serve to enhance the popularity and prosperity of the Company's service.

Mr. T. Sercombe Smith, chairman of the sub-committee for the Hongkong Cricket Club dance, writes to us to say that, as there seems to be doubt abroad as to whether the dance proposed for the 9th February next is open to the public at large, he wishes to state that the dance is not confined to members and subscribers of the H.K.C.C., and that the subscription list will close on Tuesday, the 26th January.

At the Land Office on the 18th inst., Mr. L. C. Rees, Principal Land Surveyor, exposed for sale by public auction three lots of Crown land. There was no competition, all the lots being sold on the first bid. Inland Lot No. 1711, south of Bowen Road, 40,347 sq. feet, with an annual rent of \$278, was exposed at the upset price of \$10,036 and sold to Mr. Yeung Sai Nam for \$10,016. Two small Shaokwan lots, Nos 399 and 400, were sold to Mr. Tsang Keang for \$490 and \$645 respectively.

It will be remembered that a subscription was raised in this Colony last year on behalf of Mrs. Power, wife of ex-Sergeant-Major Power of the H.K.V.C., who was convicted of embezzlement of the Corps funds in October. Major Pritchard, Commandant and Adjutant H.K.V.C., now sends us a statement of the fund for Mrs. Power, from which it appears that \$1,839.58 in all were subscribed (H.E. Sir Henry Blake, the officers and men of the H.K.V.C., contributing \$633, and the Sergeants' Mess, R.G.A., \$113), and that after various expenses had been paid a bank draft to England for \$1,146.86 (£106 0/6) has been handed to Mrs. Power. She returns to England with her daughter and youngest son on the *Dilwara*, she and her daughter going free as nurses to officers' children, while a trifling sum will be paid for the small boy for food and Suez Canal dues. We are requested to convey Mrs. Power's thanks to all who subscribed to the fund.

A collision occurred in the Harbour on the 22nd morning between two launches, *Tai Lee* and the *Lee Cheong*, at somewhere about four o'clock. The *Lee Cheong*, it appears, ran down the *Tai Lee*, sinking her about 600 feet from the Praya wall at Kowloon. The *Tai Lee* sank with her hull at right angles to the Praya, and, when she took the ground, maintained an even keel. Her two masts were to be seen above the water-line, the position being about due south from the Time Ball station, Kowloon. A red danger flag was on Friday displayed over her, replaced, last night, by a red lamp. Steps have already been taken to raise the vessel, so it is not at all likely that the Harbour Master will have to use any pressure in enforcing 27 of ordinance 36 of 1899 whereby he holds the power of compelling the removal of any obstruction in the harbour, whether floating, submerged, or sunk. Raising a steam-launch, anyway, is not a very arduous task—a couple of large lighters, with purchase, and a few chains around her hull are all that is wanted. The steam-launch *Tai Lee* bears the licence No. 251, her owner being Mr. Kwok Lin, of No. 26 Wing Kat Lane. The steam launch *Lee Cheong* is No. 247, owned by the Po Chan S. S. Co., Ltd., No. 48 Des Voeux Road. We understand that legal steps have already been taken regarding the collision. The Naval Yard picked up a buoy belonging to the *Lee Cheong*.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The promotion of Acting Sergeant J. W. Gloyd, Hongkong Volunteers, is confirmed in the rank of sergeant with effect from 6th March, 1902. Corporal C. H. P. Hay has been permitted to resign dated 16th January, 1904.

During 1903 the following samples were examined under the Sale of Food and Drugs Ordinance:—7 of milk, 16 of beer, 13 of whisky, 2 of brandy, and 1 each of ghee, gin, port, and coffee. Milk was the only offender, 2 samples proving adulterated.

Major Gurdon, Captain Wakefield, four sub-lieutenants, and 11 rank-and-file of the 83rd Company of Royal Garrison Artillery arrived on the 19th from Canada by the Canadian Pacific Railway s.s. *Empress of India*, and proceeded to Lyemun. Captain Wakefield is not new to Hongkong, having not so very long ago acted here as a Lieutenant in the Hongkong and Singapore Battalion of Royal Artillery.

Thirty-three Naval ratings arrived from Shanghai on the evening of the 19th inst. on the China Navigation Company's s.s. *Kalgan* and proceeded to H.M.S. *Tamar*. Leaving Shanghai on the 15th inst., the *Kalgan* had a somewhat tempestuous voyage down the coast, Capt. Speed reporting strong monsoon and high sea to Breker Point, but from thence to port light winds and fine weather. The sailormen passengers, of course, were quite at home to the bad weather.

The formation of a Quoiting Club for Hongkong is now taking on the semblance of reality. Messrs. J. Caldwell & Sons, of Kilmarnock, have been communicated with, and they are sending out seven pairs ranging in weight from 6 lbs. to 9 lbs. Mr. J. Caldwell is universally recognised as one of the most if not the most expert manufacturer of quoits; he is also sending out a copy of the rules which govern the game of quoits in Britain, and under these the Hongkong Quoiting Club will be formed. A pitch has been secured on the Happy Valley opposite the Civil Service Cricket Club matched, and before long the Quoiting Club will be in full swing. The new quoits are expected in about a month's time. Mr. W. S. Hudson has been largely instrumental in getting the movement set agoing. It is not generally known that we have in the Colony several quoiters who have made their mark at home. Among the promoters of the Quoiting Club beside Mr. Hudson are Messrs. C. Hoggarth, D. M. McKenzie, C. Cullen, and L. E. Brett. Altogether the membership numbers about 20.

In the still hours of Friday morning residents were rudely awakened by the loud clanging of the fire-bell, the rattle of the brigade as they hurried to answer the alarm being audible shortly afterwards. A hasty glance over the house-tops located the conflagration; on reaching the vicinity the house was seen to be No 13, Seymour Road. As far as is known a coolie house-keeper upset a kerosene lamp. The flames spread rapidly, jumping from one piece of woodwork to another. Tongues of fire protruded from the windows, mocking, as it were, all endeavours to check the work of destruction. A heavy smoke reflected the red glare, a large column of smoke hovering over the burning house. Luckily the wind was not strong; otherwise, there is no telling where the matter would have ended. As it was, the brigade, in preventing a spread, damaged by water a quantity of furniture in the next door habitation, occupied by Mr. Weill, of Messrs. Levy Hermanos. With a heavy crash, far louder than the crackling timbers, floors and roof of the burning house fell to the ground, continuing to burn brightly in what was now a fireplace enclosed by still standing walls. There were not a great many spectators, but those present witnessed a sight rarely seen on such a high level as Seymour Road. One thing calling for remorse was the fact that the only water available had to be drawn from our very limited supply. Watching the steady jet of fresh water, checking progress of the roaring flames, one could not help but think of the times when a non-yielding tap necessitated a foregoeing of the luxury of a bath for days at a stretch. The hose was connected to a hydrant in the roadway. Eventually the flames were got under, but for many hours, long after daylight, hose-men were still at work. No. 13, Seymour Road, a house which belonged to the late commander of Messrs. E. D. Sassoon & Co., belongs now to the comprador's son, who is on a visit to Canton.

A negro has appealed to Governor Wright of the Philippines to form an American negro police company in Manila.

Archbishop J. J. Harty, the first American ecclesiastic appointed to the supreme position in the Roman Church in the Philippines, arrived in Manila on the 16th inst. and received a most enthusiastic welcome.

The case in which Messrs. Miller and Ballantine were charged in Manila with issuing forged certificates for Chinese immigration into the Philippines has failed. The *Cablenews* says there was not sufficient evidence to convict.

An Act has been passed in Manila entitling merchants, who have paid duty on goods imported, should they export them from the islands, to obtain a certificate to that effect, and on production of that certificate at the time of importation of other similar goods they shall be exempt from duty also. This applies to tinned goods and foodstuffs, and is to enable merchants in the Philippines to compete with those on the China coast, in case of war breaking out between Japan and Russia.

A Far Eastern Press Association telegram dated New York, January 18, says:—Andrew D. White, who recently retired as ambassador from the United States to Germany, and who is famed as a statesman, diplomat and educator, says that the Kaiser will never take the side of Russia to crush Japan. He believes that Germany will be neutral during the coming war, and that rather than see Japan denationalised the German Emperor would interfere in her behalf.

A prominent banker (whose name is not given) said to a *Manila Cablenews* reporter on the 18th inst.:—"Mex. will go to two for one in a short time, and people will be fairly breaking their necks to get any of it at almost any price. There are at least eight millions of the precious stuff buried in the Islands here. It has got to come out. All the legislating the Commission can do won't stop it. Somebody is going to make a mint of money. Do you think the bankers are fools, to let such a chance escape them?"

News was received at Railway Headquarters at Tientsin, says the *P. & T. Times*, stating that Conductor Frederick Miller had committed suicide at Tongshan. The deceased was formerly in the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, and joined the railway service about a year ago. It appears that he was suspended from duty on the 30th ult. for an offence that was not a very serious one, and this caused his shooting himself through the head. The deceased was very popular both with his co-workers as well as friends outside the service, and was to have been reinstated in his position in a few days.

A Seoul telegram, dated the 9th January, says:—Min Yei-kan, Min Yeh-sho and Chin So-kun seem to have been convinced of the necessity of reformation of the administration to a certain extent, and they now advocate the prompt opening of Ryong-an (Yong-ampho) and the dismissal of Ye Kou-tak and Ye Yong-yik from the Government. The reason the Russian soldiers were sent to Seoul is said to be the Russian Minister's intention to maintain the goodwill of the Korean Court. He thinks they will strengthen his hands when negotiating a Russo-Corean Alliance. Nearly forty members of the Imperial Body Guard deserted last night objecting to having to keep watch during the present cold weather.

A correspondent writes to us from Canton complaining of disgraceful scenes of almost daily occurrence in a certain portion of the French concession at Shameen. He says:—It is not my intention to reflect upon the conduct of any administrative body in the concession; my desire is to call their attention publicly to the existing state of affairs, so that measures might be taken to restrict the evil, which is growing to an extent that makes it impossible for self-respecting people to live in the neighbourhood. The area of the concession is too circumscribed to allow the respectable and the degraded elements of the community to live together. The undesirable class, if not excluded altogether, should be taught to respect the susceptibilities of their neighbours. Their presence, in any way, tends to lower the prestige of the European in the eyes of the native, who is always eager to point the finger of scorn at the failings of the foreigner.

It is noted in Japan that there has been a great increase in life insurance applications, chiefly from naval and military men.

According to *L'Echo de Chine*, it is telegraphed from London that the signature of the Franco-Siamese treaty is expected. The treaty confirms while it modifies the convention of 1902, provides for the evacuation of Chantaboon, and restores perfectly amicable relations between France and Siam.

In the Gomez conspiracy trial at Manila on the 18th inst. evidence was given that Gomez planned the return from Hongkong of Ricarte (the "Viper," as the Manila Press calls him) and a new revolution which was to make himself head of the Filipino Republic.

The Governor of Changsha (Hunan) lately ordered from Japan 2,000 Murata rifles, pattern 1897, which with accompanying ammunition will cost Tls. 200,000. These Japanese rifles are said to be very much admired by the Chinese, and there seems to be every prospect of China buying her rifles in future solely from Japan to the exclusion of other countries.

The *N.C. Daily News* learns from Canton that Messrs. Mandl & Co. have effected with the Viceroy of Kwangtung and Kwangsi a loan of one million taels, repayable in fifteen months, with interest at the rate of seven per cent. per annum. No Imperial Edict is to be required, but the repayment is guaranteed by the Viceroy, the Governor, and the Provincial Treasurer. Of the total sum about Tls. 400,000 is to be provided in the shape of Krupp's military manufactures, the balance being in cash.

The *Ostasiatische Lloyd* publishes a telegram dated Berlin, 11th January, to the following effect:—The statement, made by all Japanese Ministers in Europe, according to which Japan will hold up the *status quo* in Corea during her negotiations with Russia, is considered here as a proof of the correctness and the prudence of the Japanese diplomacy. Contrary to the warlike news emanating from England, the French Press is laying great stress in their remarks on the love of peace shown by all Great Powers, and the sagacious tactics of Japan.

At the conference in Tokyo on the 11th inst. between the Cabinet and the Elder Statesmen the Premier, Count Katsura, was absent. The result was not reported to the Throne the same day, but was to be reported on the 12th. It was expected that, "to serve a purpose which is not made public" (according to the Tokyo correspondent of the *N.C. Daily News*), another note would be sent to Russia, not an ultimatum. We may mention in this connection that it is rumoured here that Japan is only delaying matters until the cruisers *Kasuga* and *Nisshin* reach Singapore—probably about the 27th inst.

L'Echo de Chine writes as follows concerning the rumoured orders for 250 Sherwood Foresters to proceed North from Hongkong:—The 250 Foresters of Hongkong would certainly be a precious item to the allies, but we may be allowed to think that their number must be multiplied tenfold before, in the event of war their bravery can make an impression on their adversaries. Those most in the know say that these valiant soldiers are to occupy the Yangtze Valley and are destined sooner or later to enliven with their brilliant uniforms the too dull thoroughfares of our international bund.

H.M. third-class cruiser *Archer* on arrival at Colombo from Australia, homeward bound, was stopped awaiting the possibility of a Russo-Japanese outbreak, in which case she will probably come to Hongkong. The first-class cruiser *Diadem*, third-class cruiser *Seylla*, and torpedo gun-boat *Karakatta*, which were following the *Archer* home, were expected at Colombo when the last mail left and it was anticipated that they also would reinforce the China squadron in event of war. The *Diadem* carries sixteen 6-in. guns, fourteen 12-pounders, and twelve lighter guns, and 3 torpedo tubes. The *Seylla*, which is equal to the first-class cruiser in speed, is armed with two 6-in. guns, six 4.7-in. guns, fourteen lighter guns and four torpedo-tubes. The *Karakatta*, the other 20-knot vessel, is armed with two 4.7-in. guns, four 3-pounders and three torpedo tubes. The *Archer*, which is the slowest of the four, indicating a speed of 16-knots, is armed with six 6-in. guns, eleven smaller guns, and three torpedo-tubes.

A proposition is on foot to open a trolley circuit in the Far East, Manila, Hongkong, Honolulu, Yokohama, Shanghai, Hongkong, and Manila will be included in the new venture if it is carried through.

The *N.C. Daily News* says that it can contradict on good authority the *China Mail* correspondent's story that operations on the Canton Hankow railway have been suspended under orders from New York.

Mr. & Mrs. Taft left Yokohama for San Francisco on the *Korea* on the 7th inst. On the evening of the 4th instant a reception was given at the United States Legation at Tokyo to Mr. Taft. Prince Kanin was present, as were the Japanese Prime Minister, the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Marquis Oyama, the Minister of State for War, Marquis and Marchioness Nabeshima, Marquis Hashikura, and many others. Nearly the whole American community of Tokyo and Yokohama attended.

Though Manila has a deal to learn from Hongkong, Hongkong people would profit also by a wide-awake visit to Manila. One industry, for instance, which might very well be applied to the Kowloon Peninsula is that of rearing fish. Near Manila are ponds into which the sea is allowed to flow in and out through gratings. Fish are caught from canals and sea-pools at low water, and deposited into the ponds, where they grow fat on seaweed. In about a year they are ready for market. The industry is a very profitable one, yielding many thousand dollars per annum to owners of the ponds.

According to reports emanating from Peking, says the *N.C. Daily News*, it is stated that the Central Government intends to hold the western banks of the Liao river in force, should war break out between Japan and Russia, and will not permit any of the belligerents to cross over, thereby apparently allowing all the country on the other side of the Liaohe (Southern Manchuria) to be made into a battle-ground for Japan and Russia. This, of course, in the event of China becoming neutral. If China should be forced to fight she will certainly join Japan, while the Chinese troops in the neighbourhood of Southern Manchuria will be placed under the leadership, it is rumoured, of Japanese officers.

On the whole, says the *Japan Mail*, we can not but think it wise on the part of the authorities to interdict at this juncture the publication of all newspaper items about the movements of ships and troops. It is better that the public should not be kept in a fever of excitement by stories of which the vast majority have no grain of truth. Be that as it may, however, we desire to correct a misapprehension into which a local contemporary has fallen in saying that the same veto does not extend to the correspondents in Japan of foreign journals. It does extend to them, and we have knowledge of a telegram addressed to a London newspaper being "stopped" in Tokyo. [We may compare the delay in a *Daily Press* message from Kobe on the 8th inst.—Ed. D. P.] The telegraphic head office through which all telegrams for over-sea countries pass has orders, we believe, to hold back any message which violates the terms of the recently issued order.

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

Messrs. Welch, Lewis & Co. in their circular of the 11th inst. state:—Black tea.—Market closed. Green tea.—Market closed.

SILK.

Messrs. A. R. Burkill & Sons, in their circular of 11th January, state:—The home markets are quiet. Raw Silk.—The feature of the week has been the smart decline in tael prices, but the rapid rise in exchange has to a large extent counteracted the decline as regards sterling costs. The market closes steadier at the decline, whilst exchange is strong and looks like continuing so until after Chinese New Year, owing to the scarcity of money—seldom before has the stringency of money been so acute as at present. Yellow Silk.—Very little business doing; prices have declined. Hand Filatures.—Only a few small settlements to report. Steam Filatures.—The rapid rise in exchange has prevented business to any extent. Waste Silk.—No business doing, supplies practically nil.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG 22nd January.—The prices are going downward, market being dull.

Sheshloong, No. 1, White.....	\$8.60 to \$8.65	per c.
Do. " 2, White.....	7.55 to 7.60	"
Do. " 1, Brown.....	6.05 to 6.10	"
Do. " 2, Brown.....	5.85 to 5.90	"
Swatow, No. 1, White.....	8.50 to 8.55	"
Do. " 2, White.....	7.55 to 7.60	"
Do. " 1, Brown.....	5.90 to 5.95	"
Do. " 2, Brown.....	5.75 to 5.80	"
Woochow Sugar Candy.....	12.85 to 12.90	"
Sheshloong ".....	10.85 to 10.90	"

In the Kobe Market Report for the first half of the month it is reported that there to a little demand for Hongkong Refined Sugar and only small sales are reported at rates which leave no margin of profit. Beet Stocks have dwindled down considerably, and the market is almost bare of German either in first or second hands. Prices have improved in consequence, and were quoted about 20 sen higher. Osaka Refined.—On the 5th inst. 3,500 bags were sold at auction at a reduction of 10 to 20 sen from previous values. On the 13th however, 11,300 bags were disposed of at prices showing an advance of 15 to 20 sen over the former sale.

RICE.

Hongkong 22nd January.—The downward tendency continues, market being weak.

Saigon, Ordinary.....	\$2.95 to \$3.00	
" Round, Good quality.....	4.45 to 4.50	
" Long.....	4.60 to 4.65	
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2.....	3.55 to 3.60	
" Garden, " No. 1.....	4.35 to 4.40	
" White.....	4.65 to 4.70	
" Fine Cargo.....	5.05 to 5.10	

OPIUM.

Quotations are:—Allowance net. to 1 catty.	23rd January.—
Malwa New.....	\$910 to \$930 per picul.
Malwa Old.....	to \$970 do.
Malwa Older.....	to \$1,010 do.
Malwa V. Old.....	to \$1,050 do.
Persian fine quality.....	\$910 to do.
Persian extra fine.....	\$920 to do.
Patna New.....	\$1,300 to per chest.
Patna Old.....	to do.
Benares New.....	\$1,297½ to do.
Benares Old.....	to do.

COTTON YARNS.

The Hiogo and Osaka Chamber of Commerce fortnightly Market Report dated 14th inst. remarks:—Prices of Japanese Yarns have steadily declined, and are now, under the influence of a stagnant market, 1.50 below last quotations. The export for the fortnight is 14,076 piculs against 15,771 piculs for same period last year.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 15th Jan.—The prices ruling are as follows:—

OTTOY YARN—	
Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20, ...	\$ 90.00 to \$128.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24, ...	114.00 to 120.00
" 22 to 24, ...	120.00 to 128.00
" 28 to 32, ...	136.00 to 142.00
" 38 to 42, ...	155.00 to 170.00

Reported sales 1,500 bales.

COTTON PIECE GOODS—	per piece
Grey Shirtings—6 lbs.	2.30 to 2.40
" 7 lbs.	2.50 to 2.80
" 8.4 lbs.	3.50 to 4.25
" 9 to 10 lbs.	4.30 to 5.50
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd.	2.90 to 3.25
" 58 to 60 "	3.50 to 4.00
" 64 to 66 "	4.25 to 5.75
" Fine.....	6.00 to 8.50
" Book-folds.....	5.00 to 8.00
Victoria Lawns—12 yards	0.85 to 1.75
T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y.....	2.30 to 2.80
" 7lbs. (32 ").....	2.50 to 3.00
" 6lbs. (32 "), Mexs.....	2.50 to 3.00
" 7lbs. (32 "), ".....	3.10 to 3.30
" 8 to 8.4 oz., (36 in.).....	3.30 to 4.05
Drills, English—40 yds., 13½ " to 14 lbs.	4.75 to 7.30

FANCY COTTONS—	
Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to 8 lbs.	1.75 to 4.00
Brocades—Dyed.....	to —
DAMASKS—	per yard
Chintzes—Assorted.....	0.9½ to —
Velvets—Black, 22 in.	0.26 to 0.47½
Velveteens—18 in.	0.25 to 0.26
Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk.....	0.35 to 3.50

WOOLLENS—	per yard
Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops.....	0.77½ to 2.25
German.....	— to —
Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths.....	1.25 to 3.50
Long Ells—Scarlet, 7-10 lbs.	6.95 to 9.80
Assorted.....	7.10 to 9.45
Camlets—Assorted.....	12.50 to 38.00
Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches Assorted.....	12.50 to 22.50
Orleans—Plain, 31 in.	10.00 to —
Blankets—8 to 12 lbs.	0.80 to 0.80
Fine quality.....	1.25 to 1.85

METALS—	per picul
Iron—Nail Rod.....	4.25 to —
Square, Flat Round Bar (Eng.).....	4.25 to —
Swedish Bar.....	4.30 to —
Small Round Rod.....	4.50 to —
Hoop ½ to 1½ in.	6.50 to —
Wire, 18/25 oz.	9.50 to —
Wire Rope, Old.....	3.00 to —

METALS—	per picul
Lead, L.B. & Co. and Hole Chop.....	9.00 to —
Australian.....	9.00 to —
Yellow Metal—Muntz 14/20 oz.	39.50 to —
Vivian's 14/20 oz.	39.50 to —
Elliot's 14/20 oz.	39.50 to —
Composition Nails.....	61.00 to —
Japan Copper, Slabs.....	38.50 to —
Tin.....	85.00 to —

Tin-Plates.....	per box.
Steel ½ to ½.....	6.80 to —
per cwt. cass.....	6.80 to —

SUNDRIES—	per picul
Quicksilver.....	170.00 to —
per box.....	4.20 to —
Window Glass.....	4.20 to —

Messrs. Noel, Murry & Co. in their Piece Goods Trade Report of 14th inst., state:—There is at present a temporary lull in the political atmosphere, but it is looked upon as merely the precursor of the coming storm. Russia has gone entirely too far to climb down sufficiently to satisfy the nation she has been goading on for the past six or eight months, and the delay now is probably only for the latter to complete the arrangements that are already far advanced, if not practically finished. The result of the contest, which ever way it goes, will be of momentous significance to trade in this country, as it is already seriously impairing what little credit was left, and obstructing progress towards the much needed reforms. The outlook is certainly about as dismal as it can be. The place has been drained of all its available funds at a most inopportune time, when the natives are about to square up their annual accounts, consequently money is at a heavy premium and credit is a thing of the past! Then, too, sterling rates continue advancing at the rate of a penny per week for immediate, forward, however, showing more than the usual difference. Added to all this the home markets are unapproachable, manufacturers evidently having put no faith in the famine prices that cotton has reached and are now only able to work on that basis. A reaction is bound to take place soon, as consumers must curtail their requirements in the absence of an export demand, but the position is so much in the hands of speculators, prices are likely to fluctuate very considerably throughout the season. The one gleam of sunlight that comes to our market is from Szechuen, whence fresh orders, and the wherewithal to fill them, are coming in with some briskness. Other outlets are at an absolute standstill, as far as fresh purchases go, and clearances are naturally poor in consequence of the straitened condition of the money market. Manchester, after showing a slightly easier feeling, is now reported strong and advancing, with Cotton up to 7.40d. for Mid American, and 9½d. for Egyptian. A few orders have gone through from this for Fast Black Cotton Italians for the Autumn, but beyond these nothing seems possible. There is no particular news from the States, where this market is evidently looked upon as quite hopeless for the present. To illustrate the position, an offer was made from this for some drills at about what was considered the current rates here; the reply came back quoting the price 1½d. over that offered! The auctions this week have gone lower almost without exception, both for cottons and woollens. A forced sale of a fairly large quantity of prints went off better than was expected. The demand from Szechuen mentioned above appears to be largely for Indian spinnings, a fair quantity of which have been settled during the interval at about last quotations on the average, but these prices are much below replacing cost, the Bombay market being reported up again.

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per steamer *Dardanus*, sailed on 12th Jan. For Marseilles:—200 bales hemp, 32 cases human hair, 20 bales human hair, 300 bales canes. For London:—1,860 boxes scented caper (89,050 lbs), 75 cases shell, 12 cases hats, 2 cases cigars, 54 bags shell, 500 bales waste silk, 92 pieces buffalo horns, 14 cases private effects, 430 cases ginger, 50 cases bristles, 260 bales feathers, 60 bales waste silk, 130 cases soy, 100 cases ginger, 59 packages sundries. For London/Hamburg:—80 cases bristles. For Manchester:—200 bales waste silk.

Per P. & O. steamer *Coromandel* sailed on 16th Jan. For London/Manchester:—80 bales waste silk. For London:—8 cases silks, 4 cases cigars, 2 cases bird feathers, 9 cases sundries. For Gibraltar:—9 cases cigars. For Manchester:—202 bales waste silk. For Marseilles:—125 bales waste silk, 80 bales raw silk. For Lyons:—75 bales raw silk. For Milan:—10 bales raw silk.

Per P. & O. steamer *Japan*, sailed on 20th Jan. For London:—2,000 bales hemp, 978 boxes tea, 160 packages tea, 1,069 rolls matting and mats, 190 bales canes, 30 cases woodware, 12 cases camphorwood trunks, 8 cases sundries, 76 half-chests tea, 38 bales feathers, 10 cases chinaware, 4 cases private effects, 7 cases porcelain. For Glasgow:—7 cases chinaware. For London and/or Manchester:—50 bales waste silk. For London, Hamburg Antwerp:—191 bales canes. For Buenos Ayres:—357 packages tea, 19 cases clay figures, 1 case papers. For Manchester:—164 bales waste silk. For Genoa:—100 bales waste silk.

HANKOW, 11th January. The prices quoted are for the net shipping weight excluding cost of packing for export:—

	Per picul.
Cowhides, best selected (Winter cargo) Tls	35.00
Do. seconds	29.50
Buffalo hides, best selected	23.00
Goatskins, untanned (chiefly white colour)	65.00
Buffalo Horns (average 3lbs. each)	10.60
White China Grass (Wuchang and/or Poochi)	12.00
White China Grass (Sinshan and/or Chayu)	11.45
Green China Grass (Szechuen)	11.50
Jute	5.00
White Vegetable Tallow (Kinchow)	11.50
White Vegetable Tallow (Pingchew and/or Macheng)	11.20
White Vegetable Tallow (Mongyu)	9.50
Green Vegetable Tallow (Kiyu)	14.50
Animal Tallow	11.25
Gallnuts (usual shape)	19.50
Do. (Plum) do.	21.00
Tobacco, Tingchow	118.00
Black Bristles	20.00
Feathers (Grey and/or White Duck)	3.60
Turmeric	4.20
Sesamum Seed	7.90
Sesamum Seed Oil	7.90
Vegetable Tallow Seed Oil	8.10
Wood Oil	9.00
Tea Oil	

EXCHANGE.

SATURDAY, 23rd January.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/9 1/2
Bank Bills, on demand	1/9 1/2
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/9 1/2
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/9 1/2
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/9 1/2
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/10 1/2
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	225 1/2
ON GERMANY.—	
Credits 4 months' sight	229
On demand	184
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	43 1/2
Credits, 60 days' sight	41 1/2
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	132 1/2
Bank, on demand	133
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	132 1/2
Bank, on demand	133
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	71 1/2
Private, 30 days' sight	72
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	89
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	nominal

ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	nominal
ON BATAVIA.—	
On demand	108
ON HAIPHONG.—	
On demand	1 1/2 p.c.p.m.
ON SAIGON.—	
On demand	1 p.c.p.m.
ON BANGKOK.—	
On demand	63
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	\$11.15
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	37 80
BAR SILVER, per oz.	25 1/2

SHARE REPORT.

HONGKONG, 22nd January, 1904.—There is but little change to report in the general condition of our market during the past week. An unsatisfied demand for West Points has resulted in the establishment of a fair advance in the market value of this stock, but otherwise there is no material change in quotations, and but little business has been transacted.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai are procurable in small lots at \$6 0. London quotes £62 10s. 0d. Nationals are unchanged with buyers at \$35.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions have sold and have further sellers at \$490. Cantons are procurable at \$175. China Traders, North Chinas, and Yangtses are unchanged and without business.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs have sold and are still enquired for at \$30. Chinas are on offer at \$92 1/2 after sales at \$92.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have been booked at \$31, \$30 1/2 and are now enquired for at \$30 1/2. Indo-Chinas are weak with probable sellers at \$72 1/2. Chin and Manilas have sold at \$16 and \$16 1/2 and close in further request at the former rate. Douglasses have probable buyers at \$30. Star Ferries are unchanged with probable sellers at \$30 and \$19 for the old and new issues respectively. Shell Transports have been booked at 21/-.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars are quiet at \$102 after sales at \$103 and \$102. Luzons continue neglected with sellers at \$10.

MINING.—No business under this head has come to our notice, and quotations are unchanged.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have sold at \$208 1/2 and \$209, and close in demand at the higher rate. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves are procurable at \$95. New Amoy Docks continue on offer at \$38. Farnham, Boyds are firmer with buyers at Tls. 123.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands are quiet at \$157. Kowloon Lands can be procured at \$35 ex the dividend of \$2.60 per share for 1903 paid yesterday. West Points have advanced to \$56 buyers. Hongkong Hotels are neglected at \$147 sellers. Humphreys Estates after sales at \$11 are in demand at \$11 1/2. Shaughai Lands have sold at Tls. 108 to Tls. 110 but have since weakened to Tls. 109 sellers.

COTTON MILLS.—The northern quotations are unchanged. Hongkongs have sold at \$15 1/2.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Island Cements have been done at \$25 and \$25 1/2 and close steady at the latter rate. Fenwicks have again been booked at \$50. Ices are easier with sellers at \$240. China Providents have sold at \$9 ex the dividend of 80 cents per share for 1903 paid on the 18th instant. Watkins have sold and are in further request at \$7 1/2.

MEMOS.—West Point Building Company Limited and Hongkong Land Investment and Agency Company Limited, ordinary yearly meetings on the 27th instant. National Bank of China Limited ordinary yearly meeting on the 30th instant. Hongkong Land Reclamation Company Limited, ordinary yearly meeting on the 27th instant. Hongkong Rope Manufacturing Company Limited, ordinary yearly meeting on the 6th February, transfer books close on the 3rd February to the 6th February inclusive. Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat Company Limited, ordinary half yearly meeting on the 6th February.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		
Hongkong & Shanghai	\$125	\$850, sellers
Natl. Bank of China		L'don, £62. 10s
A. Shares	28	\$35, buyers
B. Shares	28	\$35, buyers
Found. Shares	21	\$10
Insurance—		
Union	\$100	\$400, sellers
China Traders	\$25	\$58, sellers
North China	225	Tls. 69
Yangtsze	\$80	\$135
Canton	\$50	\$175, sellers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$300, sales
China Fire	\$20	\$92 1/2, sellers
Steamship Coys.—		
H., Canton and M.	\$15	\$30 1/2, buyers
Indo-China S. N.	\$10	\$72 1/2
China and Manila	\$50	\$16, sales & buyers
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$30
Star Ferry	\$10	\$30
Shell Transport and Trading Co.	\$1	\$19, sellers
Do. pref. shares	\$10	21/- sales
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$102
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$10, sellers
Mining—		
Punjom	\$11	\$1, sellers
Do. Preference	\$1	25 cents
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$600, sellers
Raub	18/10	\$6, sellers
Docks, Etc.—		
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$209, buyers
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$95, sellers
New Amoy Dock	\$6 1/2	\$38, sellers
S. C. F. Boyd & Co.	Tls. 100	Tls. 123, buyers
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv.	\$100	\$157, sellers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$35, ex div.,
West Point Building	\$50	\$56, buyers
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$147, sellers
Humphreys Estate	\$10	\$11 1/2, buyers
S'hai Land Ins. Co., Ltd.	Tls. 52	Tls. 109
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 50	Tls. 33, sellers
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 22 1/2, buyers
Laon Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 37 1/2, buyers
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 170, sales
Hongkong	\$10	\$15 1/2, sales & buyers
Green Island Cement	\$10	\$25 1/2
China-Borneo Co., Ltd.	\$12	\$8 1/2, buyers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$14 1/2
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$12 1/2
Hk. Steam Water-Boat Co., Ltd.	\$10	\$15 1/2, buyers
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$12 1/2, buyers
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$40
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	12/6	\$5, sellers
United Asbestos	\$4	\$9
Do.	\$10	\$210, buyers
Tebrau Planting Co.	\$5	nominal
China Prov. L. & M.	\$10	\$9, ex div., & sales
Watkins Ltd.	\$10	\$7 1/2, buyers
China Light & Power Co., Ltd.	\$10	\$5
Powell, Ltd.	\$10	\$9.40, buyers
Shanghai and Hongkong Dyeing and Cleaning Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$50
Canton, Hongkong Ice Cigar Companies—	\$10	\$10, nominal
Alhambra Limited	\$500	\$200
Phippine Tobacco Trust Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$10, sellers

FREIGHTS.

Per Conference Steamers. To London and Northern Continental ports:—Tea 52/6 per ton of 40 cubic feet. General Cargo 52/6 per ton of 40 cubic feet. Seeds 47/6 per ton 20 cwt. To Marseilles and Havre:—General 48/- net, per ton of 40 cubic feet. Seeds 47/6 net, per ton of 20 cwt. To New York (Overland):—Tea 1 1/2 Gs cents per lb gross. To New York, via Suez:—30/- per ton of 40 cubic feet. To Shanghai:—Tea Tails 1.80 per ton of 13 half-chests. To Shanghai:—General, Tails 1.80 per ton weight or measurement.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

ARRIVALS.

January—

14, Chunsang, British str., from Samarang.
 15, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.
 15, Shini Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
 15, Tritos, German str., from Saigon.
 16, Binh Thuan, French str., from Saigon.
 16, Choyang, British str., from Shanghai.
 16, Daphne, German str., from Samarang.
 16, Gisela, Austrian str., from Singapore.
 16, Hongmoh, British str., from Singapore.
 16, Hudson, British str., from Yokohama.
 16, Lisoum, U.S. transport, from Manila.
 16, Malta, British str., from Bombay.
 16, Monterey, U.S. monitor, from Canton.
 16, Nanyang, Ger. str., from Christmas Island.
 16, Ocean, British battle-ship, from Mirs Bay.
 16, Paknam, German str., from Bangkok.
 16, Triumph, German str., from Pakhoi.
 17, Ambria, German str., from Shanghai.
 17, Haiching, British str., from Swatow.
 17, Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.
 17, Hangchow, British str., from Shanghai.
 17, Iyo Maru, Japanese str., from Shanghai.
 17, Kwangtuh, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 17, Reim, Norwegian str., from Bangkok.
 17, Rosetta Maru, Japanese str., from Manila.
 17, Sungkiang, British str., from Manila.
 17, Tingsang, British str., from Chinkiang.
 17, Vindobona, Austrian str., from Kobe.
 18, Bayern, German str., from Yokohama.
 18, Bombay Maru, Jap. str., from Bombay.
 18, C. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Pakhoi.
 18, Emma, German str., from Hamburg.
 18, Holstein, German str., from Haiphong.
 18, Hue, French str., from Haiphong.
 18, Loongsang, British str., from Manila.
 18, Progress, German str., from Tauron.
 18, Rubi, British str., from Manila.
 18, Sishan, British str., from Saigon.
 18, Wynerio, British str., from Puget Sound.
 19, Doric, British str., from San Francisco.
 19, Emps. of India, Brit. str., from Vancouver.
 19, Hoihao, French str., from Pakhoi.
 19, Hailong, British str., from Swatow.
 19, Japan, British str., from Yokohama.
 19, Yiksan, British str., from Wuhu.
 20, Hunan, British str., from Wuhu.
 20, Jelunga, British str., from Rangoon.
 20, Kwongsang, British str., from Shanghai.
 20, Laisang, British str., from Canton.
 20, Lightning, British str., from Calcutta.
 20, Loongmoon, German str., from Canton.
 20, Pakhoi, British str., from Canton.
 20, Taiwan, British str., from Japan ports.
 20, Yangtze, British str., from Japan.
 21, An Pho, British str., from Saigon.
 21, Anping Maru, Jap. str., from Coast Ports.
 21, Cheangchow, British str., from Rangoon.
 21, Edendale, British str., from Sourabaya.
 21, Lienshing, British str., from Chefoo.
 21, Loosok, German str., from Bangkok.
 21, Mongkut, German str., from Bangkok.
 21, Rohilla Maru, Japanese str., from Manila.
 21, Sithonia, German str., from Hamburg.
 21, Szechuen, British str., from Wuhu.
 22, Choyang, British str., from Canton.
 22, Clara Jebson, Ger. str., from Haiphong.
 22, Daijin Maru, Japanese str., from Tamsui.
 22, Hong Bee, British str., from Singapore.
 22, Indravelli, British str., from Portland.
 22, Koun Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
 22, Loksang, British str., from Wuhu.
 22, Mathilde, German str., from Tauron.
 22, Michael Jebson, Ger. str., from Haiphong.
 22, Thales, British str., from Coast Ports.
 22, Tsinan, British str., from Australia.
 22, Wosang, British str., from Canton.
 23, Ajax, British str., from Liverpool.
 23, C. F. Laieaz, German str., from Hamburg.
 23, Chiynen, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 23, Daiya Maru, Japanese str., from Kobe.
 23, Deuterios, German str., from Wuhu.
 23, Gera, German str., from Hamburg.
 23, Ichang, British str., from Wuhu.
 23, Maria Valerie, Aust. str., from Shanghai.
 23, Oscar II., Norw. str., from Kutchinotzu.
 23, Vengeance, Brit. battleship, from practice.
 23, Woosung, British str., from Shanghai.

January—

DEPARTURES.

15, Anping, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 15, Chi-an, British str., for Shanghai.
 15, Hailong, British str., for Swatow.
 15, Hangsang, British str., for Swatow.

15, Johanna, German str., for Hoihow.
 15, Kamakura Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.
 15, Keongwai, German str., for Swatow.
 15, Lugano, German str., for Shanghai.
 15, Lyra, British str., for Tacoma.
 15, Rajaburi, German str., for Bangkok.
 15, Taiwan, British str., for Shanghai.
 15, Vengeance, British battle-ship, for Mirs Bay.
 15, Wosang, British str., for Canton.
 16, Algoa, British str., for San Francisco.
 16, Amigo, German str., for Taintao.
 16, Arara, British str., for Shanghai.
 16, Arratoon Apcar, British str., for Calcutta.
 16, Coromandel, British str., for Europe.
 16, Huron, British str., for Moji.
 16, Kintuck, British str., for Shanghai.
 16, Loongmoon, German str., for Canton.
 16, Loyal, German str., for Kwangchauwan.
 16, Macduff, British str., for Shanghai.
 16, Maidaru Maru, Jap. str., for Swatow.
 16, M. Struve, German str., for Haiphong.
 16, Rainbow, U.S. cruiser, for Manila.
 16, Tjimahi, Dut. str., for Singapore.
 16, Zafiro, British str., for Manila.
 17, Benlomond, British str., for Rangoon.
 17, Chudsang, British str., for Kobe.
 17, Daigi Maru, Japanese str., for Tamqui.
 17, Elg, British str., for Rangoon.
 17, Haitan, British str., for Swatow.
 17, Malta, British str., for Shanghai.
 18, Anhui, British str., for Manila.
 18, Glengyle, British str., for Shanghai.
 18, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
 18, Hongkong, French str., for Haiphong.
 18, Nanyang, German str., for Kobe.
 18, Foochow, British str., for Shanghai.
 19, Hongmoh, German str., for Amoy.
 19, Hudson, British str., for Singapore.
 19, Laertes, British str., for Saigon.
 19, Shantung, British str., for Samarang.
 19, Tolo Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.
 19, Wingsang, British str., for Swatow.
 19, Wongkoi, German str., for Moji.
 19, Yushun, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 20, Alubria, German str., for Singapore.
 20, Ambria, German str., for Singapore.
 20, Bombay Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.
 20, Bayern, German str., for Europe.
 20, China, American str., for San Francisco.
 20, Daphne, German str., for Amoy.
 20, Dunav, Australian str., for Rangoon.
 20, Gisela, British str., for Yokohama.
 20, Haiching, British str., for Swatow.
 20, Hanoi, French str., for Haiphong.
 20, Huron, British str., for Sourabaya.
 20, Japan, British str., for Singapore.
 20, Kalgun, British str., for Canton.
 20, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 20, Laisang, British str., for Singapore.
 20, Pakhoi, British str., for Ningpo.
 20, Progress, German str., for Swatow.
 20, Triumph, German str., for Haiphong.
 20, Vindobona, Austrian str., for Singapore.
 20, Wuchang, British str., for Hilo.
 21, Binh Thuan, French str., for Hongay.
 21, Carl Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Hoihow.
 21, Dilwara, British str., for Singapore.
 21, Holstein, German str., for Tauron.
 21, Hailong, British str., for Swatow.
 21, Hoihao, French str., for Pakhoi.
 21, Hue, French str., for Kwangchauwan.
 21, Kwongsang, British str., for Canton.
 21, Macduff, British str., for Shanghai.
 21, Peichaburi, German str., for Swatow.
 21, Pronto, German str., for Shanghai.
 21, Rosetta Maru, Japanese str., for Manila.
 21, Sungkiang, British str., for Manila.
 21, Yangtze, British str., for London.
 21, Yiksan, British str., for Canton.
 22, Cheangchow, British str., for Amoy.
 22, Choyang, British str., for Shanghai.
 22, Eliza, Rickmers, Ger. str., for Bangkok.
 22, Hanyang, British str., for Shanghai.
 22, Hunan, British str., for Canton.
 22, Lienshing, British str., for Shanghai.
 22, Leviathan, British cruiser, for Mirs Bay.
 22, Loongmoon, German str., for Shanghai.
 22, Loongsang, British str., for Manila.
 22, Luchs, German gunboat, for Canton.
 22, Sishan, British str., for Swatow.
 22, Sithonih, German str., for Shanghai.
 22, Szechuen, British str., for Canton.
 22, Yochow, British str., for Shanghai.
 22, Wynerio, British str., for Bunbury.
 23, Gera, German str., for Shanghai.
 23, Jelunga, British str., for Amoy.
 23, Loksang, British str., for Canton.

23, Machew, German str., for Hoihow.
 23, Paknam, German str., for Bangkok.
 23, Rubi, British str., for Manila.
 23, Shini Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.
 23, Taisang, British str., for Shanghai.
 23, Taiyuan, British str., for Australia.
 23, Wosang, British str., for Swatow.

PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Coromandel*, from Shanghai, for Hongkong, Mrs. J. H. Brown, Capt. Molloy, R.M.L.I., Messrs. H. Schwarzwaeller, Sunder Dass, Latha Ram, Hukam Chand, and J. M. Sandrais; for Singapore, Mrs. Sergada Pesckoff and Mr. F. Gilbert; for Brindisi, Lieut. Patruce Ulyse and Chief Engr. P. Vincenzo; for Marseilles via Bombay, Mr. A. Hide; for Marseilles, Miss A. M. Ward; for London, Lieut. J. M. Maxwell Scott, R.N., Messrs. J. Smith and P. Reilly; from Yokohama, for Hongkong, Mr. and Mrs. Bourne and Mr. H. Keswick; for London, Mrs. Yate; from Kobe, for Hongkong, Rev. Santiago Paya; for Marseilles via Bombay, Mr. and Miss Lathrop; for London, Messrs. Miyasaki and Kubo.

Per *Malla*, from Hongkong, from London, Mr. and Mrs. Strauss, Surg. E. C. E. Stanford, R.N., and Mr. Ricketts; from Marseilles, Mr. Mrs. and Miss Watson, Surg. Charles Thomas, R.N., Fleet Paymaster Bradden, Rev. R. Coles, Messrs. E. Selegman, J. Forrest, C. Condon, C.B., and H. C. Pearson; from Penang, Mr. Claud Laykins; from Singapore, Mr. and Mrs. Hopkins, Lieut. Douglas B. la Mattie, Bishop H. Brent, Messrs. R. B. Beatie, J. D. Brown, an Hackston; for Shanghai, from London, Mr. G. A. Turner, Misses Shepherd and Adam; from Marseilles, Mr. A. R. Owen; from Bombay, Mrs. Bromley, Mr. H. C. Bromley, Mr. and Mrs. Ratanjee; for Yokohama, from London, Mrs. Baxter, Messrs. A. J. Murray Stewart and G. A. George.

Per *Bayern*, from Yokohama, &c., Mrs. G. Ozario, Mrs. F. Casta, Misses B. Souza and Kanaki, Messrs. F. J. Gutierrez, A. Haupt, Fr. Reiber, E. W. Maitland, H. Feirmann, Lauber, Diener, Hildebrand, Ziegenbalg, A. Myers, Koops, Fauseca, K. Tamatsa, and Kadoya.

DEPARTED.

Per *Coromandel*, from Hongkong, for Singapore, Messrs. R. A. Kerkhoven, Fox Kirk, L. Cole, F. P. Brown, and Mrs. Gilbert; for Colombo, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Bourne, Dr. J. W. Egbert, and Mr. J. A. C. Fort; for Bombay, Lieut. Delme Radcliff; for Port Said, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. F. Vail, Miss Elise Vail, Messrs. Henry F. Welch, John Stewart, and Dr. James F. Watson; for Brindisi, Mr. and Mrs. Hugo Cook, Mrs. N. A. Wood, and Mr. J. B. Wood; for Marseilles, Messrs. C. W. Roberts, Robert Peels, G. A. Maclean, and Richard Arkwright; for London, Mr. and Mrs. Miss Southern, Mrs. R. Beaumont, Engr. Comdr. Hy. J. Rampling, Fleet Paymaster Edw. R. D. Fasken, and Lieut. Henry Gratton; from Shanghai, for Singapore, Mme. Serge de Pesckoff and Mr. F. Gilbert; for Brindisi, Lieut. Patruce Ulyse and Chief Engr. P. Vincenzo; for Marseilles, Miss A. M. Ward, Mr. A. Hide, Mr. and Miss Lathrop; for London, Mrs. Yate, Lieut. J. M. Scott, R.N., Messrs. J. Smith, P. Reilly, Miyasaki, and Kubo.

Per *Bayern*, from Hongkong for Bremen, Mrs. Buttery, Mrs. Frank E. Green, Mrs. S. Musso and 2 children, Mrs. Tami Ohashi, Mrs. J. Smedley and 2 children, Mrs. F. Barbour Smith, Mrs. L. Hopkinson, Stephen, Mr. and Mrs. J. Fleishman, Mr. and Mrs. Plaisant, Rev. and Mrs. Robert Stephen and three children; Misses Gertrude M. Campbell, Kate Dimbleby, Emma Engleman, Farge, Jex Blake, Lanning, Gretchen Warneck; Messrs. Adams, Carlos A. Aldao, Barclay, Eg. Brunner, Th. Frauenstein, E. A. Gilbert, Emilio di Gropello, R. Lindsay, A. J. L. Macgregor, J. McMillan, C. N. Milleken, J. M. S. Oliver, T. Y. Pearson, H. W. Poge, Schroeder, Oberleutnant z. S. Schumann, H. Schwarzwald, A. Tough, Watson, Inosuke Yoshida, Father Aldami, Drs. C. Burger, Gerhard Hirte, and Major and Mrs. Hofrichter.

Printed and published by BERTRAM AUGUSTUS HALL for the Concerned, at 14, Des Voeux Road Central, City of Victoria, Hongkong. London Office: 131, Fleet Street, E.C.